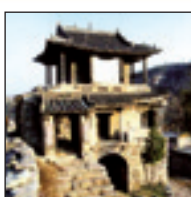


A stone village hidden in the Taihang mountains in Hebei Province arouses curiosity.

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Paper cutting has traditionally been confined to elderly women living in the countryside. Not anymore.

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A 22-year-old model from Harbin gets ready to be famous.

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Xinhua photo

Let the Games Commence

By Shan Jinliang

The Beijing 21st Universiade kicked off with pageantry at the Worker's Stadium on Wednesday evening.

More than 60,000 participated in the performance. Among them were Chinese leaders, FISU officials and members of delegations throughout the world. Nearly 7,000 athletes, coaches and officials from 169 countries and regions took part. The Universiade News says the 21st will be the largest international university student games in history.

The 21st Universiade is the first internationally comprehensive competition held by China and is regarded as a prologue to the 2008 Olympics. There are 10 FISU compulsory events — athletics, basketball, fencing, football, gymnastics including rhythmic gymnastics, swimming, diving, water polo, tennis and volleyball. There are two optional events: table tennis and judo. Also added to the program are women's football, women's saber, synchronized diving, table tennis team events and men and women's 50-meter breaststroke.

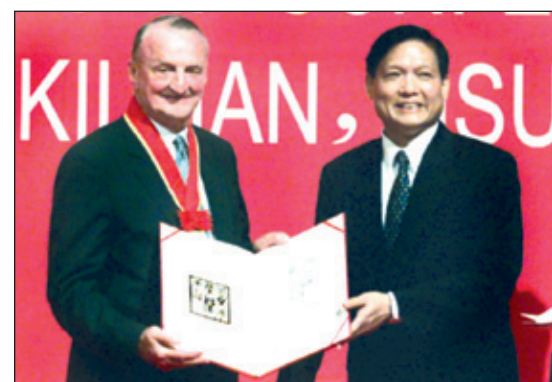


Photo by Cheng Tieliang

Killian Made Beijing Honorary Citizen

By Chen Huiying

George E. Killian, president of the International University Sports Federation, was made the 18th honorary citizen of Beijing last night.

At a ceremony in the Shangri-la Hotel, Mayor Liu Qi presented Killian with a certificate and a medal confirming the honor. Killian said he has become quite familiar with Beijing after visiting three times to inspect the city during its bidding and preparations for the 21st Universiade.

Through his support for the Beijing Games, Killian also helped the Chinese capital toward victory in its bid for the 2008 Olympic Games.

"I look forward to a great Universiade, which will lead you to a great Olympics," he said at the opening ceremony of the Athletes' Village.

EDITOR: LIU FENG XIA LEI DESIGNER: PANG LEI

Red Building Opens to Public in Xiamen

By Zhao Pu

“We must build an honest and clean government to gain the people's trust.”

The eye-catching words of President Jiang Zemin declare this from a placard to the right of an infamous location in recent history, this seemingly ordinary red-brick seven-story building cost 140 million yuan to build. It represented a palace of pleasure-seeking for the government officials who enjoyed the comprehensive services arranged by Lai Changxing. “Boss Lai,” the arch-criminal mastermind behind the 600-member, 53,000 million yuan smuggling ring, has fled to Canada.

Hong Lou or “Red Building”, the den of iniquity in the Xiamen Yuanhua smuggling case, will open to the public on Monday as a negative teaching material and permanent monument to the life and death struggle against corruption.

An exhibition of investigation into the smuggling case will be on show next door at the same time, according to the Xiamen Committee of the Communist Party of China. Meanwhile today, the Red Building, on Huaguang Road in Xiamen, is sealed and guarded by police.

The exhibition and opening of the building was planned and will be held by the Central Supervision Committee, according to people concerned in the Xiamen Committee of the Communist Party of China.

The Red Building, a den of iniquity. Placard to the left of the gate: “Combating smuggling and corruption, and promoting development and stability.”

Photo by Ling Yun



2 Hostages Killed in Philippines

By Shan Jinliang

Two Chinese hostages were killed fleeing for their lives during a bloody gun battle between their kidnappers and the Philippine army.

Zhang Zhongqiang and Xue Xing were shot dead trying to reach rescue troops on Sunday in a confrontation between the army and more than 20 kidnappers. A third hostage Wang Shengli escaped with minor wounds.

China has expressed deep concern about the incident. Another Chinese hostage Zhang Zhongyi and a Chinese-Filipino companion Edwin Lim were left in the hands of their captors. Four Filipino gunmen had first kidnapped Zhang Zhongqiang, a Chinese engineer from the China Electric Power Technology Import & Export Corp, on June 20. The kidnappers had demanded through a radio station that they preferred to negotiate with the Philippine military over a \$10,000,000 ransom demand. The military rejected the call on Wednesday. The kidnappers had then threatened to behead the two hostages if the government would not end their pursuit and produce the ransom money.



Wang Shengli (second from left), one of the four kidnapped Chinese in the Philippines, is welcomed back to freedom. Zhang Zhongyi and a local businessman, Edwin Lim, are still held captive. (Xinhua photo)

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Sun Yuxi said the Chinese government strongly demanded the Philippine side take all necessary measures to guarantee the “absolute safety” of the Chinese hostage and properly handle affairs related to the death of the two Chinese.

Satellite Enterprise Ready for Blastoff

By Shan Jinliang

China's first state-owned satellite company opened for business in Beijing on Saturday. Aerospace Dongfanghong (DFH) Satellite will mass produce small satellites. A DFH spokesman predicted an annual production capacity of six satellites in the short run, and more than 10 in later years.

The Chinese Academy of Space Technology has previously produced nine small satellites. The successful launches have given China an edge in small satellite research.

Investment partner China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation chairman Xue Fuxiang said China's aerospace flights had previously depended on the government to develop space technology, restricted due to lack of investment from the state and bars on private capital. But now China's aerospace development no longer depends on the government.

It marks a good beginning for China's aerospace technology toward industrialization, wrote Wu Bangguo, Vice-Premier of the State Council, in a congratulation letter.

Attractions Offered to Overseas Scholars

Five Chinese ministries jointly issued a guideline to attract more top-grade scientists and experts to help in the country's development.

The number of returning scholars who have worked and studied abroad has been increasing by an average 13 percent annually. About 130,000 scholars have come back to China, but

over 250,000 people are still abroad.

Overseas scholars are encouraged to return to China and use their academic achievements to contribute to the country's economic and cultural development.

They are welcomed to serve as consultants or visiting scholars in Chinese institutions of higher learning, key research and

development centers, as well as in all kinds of enterprises.

Any overseas scholar who holds a Ph.D. can take a post-doctoral position at domestic research and development workshops.

China also encourages scholars to undertake domestically sponsored projects to conduct research at home and abroad. They

are also urged to set up or invest in domestic firms with acquired patents or scientific achievements abroad.

The government will offer favorable conditions to the returned scholars, such as research funding, reasonable salaries or commissions, and protection of patent rights or scientific achievements. (Xinhuanet)



Village Hong, a World heritage site, famed as the most beautiful village in China, attracts thousands every day with its simple charm.

Xinhua Photo

China Ranks No. 3 on World Heritage List

By Shan Jinliang / Yue Ming

The World Heritage Center of UNESCO awarded China's 4 new cultural heritage sites with certificates on August 15. So far, China has a total of 27 cultural heritage sites, ranking No. 3, only next to Spain and Italy.

China joined the International Convention Concerning

the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 1985. The new sites and projects include the Longmen Grottoes in Henan Province, the imperial mausoleums of the Ming and Qing dynasties in Hubei and Hebei Provinces respectively, Jokhang Temple in Tibet and Suzhou Classical Gardens in Jiangsu Province. They were approved at the 24th World's Heritage Conference in Australia last year.

Zhang Wenbing, director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, said at the award ceremony that application is only the very first step for World Heritage sites. Preserving sites of natural beauty and human achievement is a permanent goal.

By the end of last year, the World's heritage sites numbered 690, including 529 cultural sites, 138 natural sites, and 23 that combined cultural and natural heritage.

Blight Poses No Threat to Pandas

By Zhou Song

Cyclical bamboo blights in 1974 and 1983 killed 250 giant pandas, threatening their survival. However, the cyclical food crises for giant pandas will not cause their extinction, says Zhang Hemin, head of the Conservation Center of Giant Pandas in Wolong, Sichuan, China.

Giant pandas have existed for almost 3 million years. Reckoned in terms of bamboo cyclical blooming, there have been more 50 thousand blights, but giant pandas still exist. They moved to find new food bases and habitats.

In cooperation with the World Wide Fund For Nature, the former Forestry Ministry issued and executed a plan for protection of panda habitats in 1992. Thanks to the plan, giant pandas can move to other areas when the bamboo blights afflict their original habitats.

Bamboo periodic blooming and withering is a regular law of nature, says Zhang.



The new magnetic train based on China's own technology.

Xinhua Photo

Magnetic Train on Track

By Shan Jinliang

Built with Chinese technology, China's first magnetic levitation train carriage came off the production line at Changchun Passenger Car Plant (CPCP), in northeastern Jilin province on Tuesday, August 14.

China thus became the third country in the world after Germany and Japan to have its own magnetic suspension train. The 60 km/h train will go into commercial use after trials in Chengdu, Sichuan Province. Its maximum speed was 100km/h during trials, said plant president Ma

Shu.

As magnetic trains seem likely to grow increasingly popular, the government said it would build such an advanced project employing Chinese technology. The speed of future trains will one day reach 400 km/h, said a plant spokesman.

The 11.2-meter-long, 2.6-meter-wide carriage seats 28, can carry up to 2 tons and is safe, smooth, noiseless and pollution-free.

Beijing will build a magnetic levitation train at the Badaling section of the Great Wall at the end of this year.

Crackdown on Pirated CD/VCD Markets

By Shan Jinliang

More than 80 markets across China will be shut down by December in a crackdown on illegal audio-video products. The crackdown is a part of a Ministry of Culture plan announced last week to close all audio-video product markets with more than 10 retailers.

It is estimated that 90% of audio-video discs and tapes sold in these markets are pirated, smuggled or pornographic. Only Beijing Audio-video Mansion, which operates legally, will be kept open. The campaign will promote development of genuine audio-video products and cut competition from illegal products, said Zhang Jianxin, vice-director of the ministry's markets department.

The Ministry determined to ban more than 200 markets in nearly 40 cities across China in 1999. The markets slated for closing contain some 7,000 retail sellers, according to Ministry statistics.

By the end of July, more than 120 markets had been outlawed. The remaining 80 have agreed to the December deadline. The department will act quickly against those few markets displaying late reluctance, Zhang said.

With the shutdown of these markets, the original distribution channels will be severed, and a new distribution network will be introduced: a combination of supermarkets, chain stores and e-commerce. Audio-video products markets are to be opened in city business districts.

Key dealers will be chosen as distribution centers. China stores will be encouraged to open, and audio-video products will see a rapid development through e-commerce popularizeddors.

CBD Grows Up

By Zhao Pu

The China World Trade Center will soon set a new height for Beijing.

According to the Municipal City Planning Committee, the main building of the China World Trade Center, located in the Central Business District (CBD), will reach a height of 330 meters.

Jingguang Center has been known as the highest building in Beijing with a staggering height of 208 meters since it's construction in 1989. Its glory as summit of the city will soon expire however, as the forthcoming third phase construction of the China World Trade Center will set a new height for Beijing.

Before the construction of the future No.1 skyscraper in the city, a 257-meter-high building named Wealth Center, consisting of five towers, will be built in the CBD zone.

Minimum Wage: 5 Yuan per Hour

By Shan Jinliang

Beijing will have a minimum wage of at least 5 yuan per hour (\$0.60) for casual labor, stipulated by a regulation from the city's Labor and Social Security Bureau and the Bureau of Finance.

The unemployment rate in the first half of the year was 0.92%, the highest since 1984, according to Beijing Development and Planning Committee. It is estimated 440,000 are seeking work with only 200,000 vacancies. Beijing is to offer 100,000 positions in local neighborhoods, said the Service Center of Beijing Labor and Social Securities Bureau.

First Open-End Fund Issuing in September

By Zhao Pu

Hua An Chuang Xin, the first open-end fund was approved by the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) on August 15. The fund manager is Hua An Fund Management Co., and the fund trustee is the Bank of Communications.

Hua An Chuang Xin investment fund, formally to be issued from September this year, is a contracting open-end fund. Sixty percent of the fund will be sold to individual investors whereas forty percent is for group investors. Some relevant documents, including the Directions on Hua An Chuang Xin Investment Fund Purchasing, will be released within 10 days after the establishment of the fund.

"We are very excited about getting the approval, but we also face great pressure and challenges," said Han Ganghe, General Manager of the company, "the so-called open-end fund is leading the company into an arena. The redemption system of it will keep us permanently on our toes. If you run it well, you'll get bigger and bigger funds. If you run it poorly, the investors will pull out."

Possessing characteristics of collective fund, expert management and free redemption, the open-end fund marks a new stage in the development of the security market in China.



Liu Chuanzhi

Legend Buys Back Shares

By Su Peng

China's largest PC manufacturer Legend Group announced on August 16 that it bought back 8.2 million of its own shares on the Hong Kong stock market at HK\$4.15 to HK\$4.225.

As the first share-buy-back in Legend's history, its Chairman Liu Chuanzhi said in a statement that the buy-back action was based on Legend's "self confidence in the market", and the aim was mainly to "promote the repayment rate to the shareholders". Mary Ma, the CFO of Legend said that this instance of share-buy-back will not be the only one, but the beginning of a series of similar actions in the current fiscal year. She added that the group has sufficient capital to support this plan. However, she did not provide many details about the plan.

As the largest computer maker in China, Legend controls about 30 percent of China's PC sales. As Legend CEO Yang Yuanqing predicts, China's PC market will keep rising from 25% to 30%. "The rising of Legend's sales," he said confidently, "will keep pace with the market, and may even go beyond it."

China Mobile to Issue CDRs

By Zhao Yijiang

As the world's second largest and China's top mobile phone service provider, China Mobile is considering turning back to mainland bourses for financing. China Mobile (Hong Kong) Ltd. chairman Wang Xiaochu said recently that the company is still in discussion with relevant government agencies on the possibility of issuing CDRs (China Depository Receipts, the domestic listing method for those companies incorporated overseas). "The company is waiting for approval from the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) for domestic listing in the form of CDRs," Wang said.

Although China now has the largest mobile phone market in the world, China Mobile's shares are currently only available in Hong Kong and the US, and the issue of CDRs would give mainland investors an opportunity to trade its shares in yuan. "The domestic listing will be a boost to the company's business as the stock buyers are more likely to adopt their services," said Jim Lin, chief telecom analyst of Frost & Sullivan, a US-based research house. Another driving force for its CDRs is the rosy market performance on the mainland and the comparatively low cost of local listing.

A special team has been organized in Beijing to study the CDRs plan, according to Anthony Noah, Chief Adviser of the CSRC. However, no timetable has been set for the reform.

The CSRC holds a positive attitude towards allowing overseas enterprises to issue CDRs on the mainland, *Hong Kong Economic Times* reported. But the green light is unlikely to be given soon, as the plan comes at a time when China is cracking down on the outflow of foreign currencies, the report quoted securities insiders as saying.

Laid off CEOs Back to Internet

By Yang Xiao

Who is the victim of the Internet depression? Although dotcomers are leaving their posts, investors think they are the biggest victims. Therefore the capital decided to kick the CEOs out of their posts.

Gong Yuguo finally returned to the Internet again. Recently he admitted that he now serves as Vice General Manager at the China Macro Economic Information Network. Gong is former General Manager of an IT portal. He resigned on May 14 and led a trend of net heroes' resignations one by one.

Following Gong, Tong Jiawei, the CEO of China's largest B2B website MeetChina.com, was forced to leave his post after the May Day holiday. After leaving the job, Tong spent his own money (about 5 million yuan) to build another B2B website to fulfil his dream.

On June 5 China's largest portal, Sina.com, dismissed its founder and CEO, Wang Zhidong. The board of directors voted his dismissal since he has failed to make profits. Wang strongly opposed the board's decision, so he began to hire lawyers to win back his original shares, which should be given to the board according to contracts he signed. It has been revealed that Wang has set up a new



① - ④: Gong Yuguo, Tong Jiawei, Wang Zhidong, Wang Juntao

Photos by Wang Zhenlong / Chen Shuyi

Internet related software company. Now Wang's office is located at Friendship Hotel near Zhongguancun where he is setting up the company. A potential investor is Legend Group. On the telephone, he didn't say much about the newly set up company, but he says he will reveal more soon.

Wang Juntao is a well-known hero for all netizens especially after resigning. He launched 8848.net in March 1999, and hoped his retailing business could soar as high as Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world. The website became the largest one in the world of China B2C. Wang was forced to leave 8848.net on account of investors' will last year. 8 months later, Wang lost his job again because he couldn't minimize the divergence between the major two shareholders. But for Wang, leaving the Internet is impossible. He will go on sticking to the model of B2C. A source revealed that he was planning to serve as CEO in another B2C website.

As Wang's saying, "Don't guess who is the next laid off CEO at the moment, because there are few CEOs remaining in their jobs. But just pay close attention to who will come back."

Right now they're all coming back. This time they're making low-pitched sounds to a different tune. To them, finding a job is a piece of cake. They believe in the Internet, so they stick to it.

China Telecom's IPO May Postpone

By Su Peng

China Telecom's IPO (Initial Public Offering) on NYSE and Hong Kong may be put off from this September to 2002 said Mario Francescotti last Thursday, senior official of Morgan Stanley (Asia).

Morgan Stanley was picked up by China Telecom as underwriter for its listing. Francescotti said that the main reason for the suspension was not the world wide depression of the telecommunication industry as many people had thought, but the complex, loss-incurring structure of China Telecom and the uncertainties over which way the telecom giant would be downsized.

As China's largest telecommunication company, China Telecom almost monopolizes the whole China telecommunications market. It has 160 million subscribers and an 80% share of the Chinese telephone network. At the beginning of the year, the company planned its listing abroad, while the State Council tentatively decided to reform the fixed-line telecom business, by breaking it down into smaller segments in May.

According to Morgan Stanley's analysis, the most attractive condition of China Telecom to investors is its tycoon position in China telecom industry. It's uncertain whether China Telecom will win or lose on the share market if its separating comes prior to IPO.

Furthermore, China Telecom, influenced by such uncertainties, reported an unsatisfactory first half-year operation result last week. The revenue growth of the company significantly slowed down to 5.8% in the period, much lower than the industry's average of 14.7%.



Two men make phone calls on a Shanghai street. It has an 80% share of fix-line network

By Jason Young

As the deputy leader of the Swiss Delegation, Li Donghua was busy arranging his athletes' board and lodgings as soon as he arrived at the Athletes' Village in 21st Universiade.

As a businessman he seemed unable to tear himself away from his mobile phone. After postponing an interview three times in one day, Li finally took a seat at the hall in the Village's Hotel on the afternoon of August 18.

This time Li has demonstrated his business skill by persuading Credit Suisse to be the delegation's sponsor.

Though Li Donghua is Swiss, he was born in China in 1967. In his life

Li Donghua

Gold Medal in Business



Photo by Jackey

as a talented gymnast, Li Donghua was a bad dog. He suffered 3 serious injuries that were nearly fatal. As Forest Gump's wisdom goes: life is like a bar of chocolate. Li accordingly found his sweetheart. In 1988 he met a Swiss girl and flew to Luzern, Switzerland to begin a new life.

In Switzerland Li Donghua had a hard time. "I had an extremely high salary in China. When I was 18, I surpassed my father who

has over 30 years working experience. But in Switzerland I had to dig holes in roads and paint houses for a living." He had to work during the day and practiced at night. Five years later, after continuous hard training, he regained his energy. Especially in 1996 when he got three Champion titles: European Champion, World Champion and Olympic Champion at the age of 29.

After the games, Li retired and became a ce-

lebrity in Switzerland. He still has another goal of becoming a businessman. Many companies including Credit Suisse, Longines and Adidas, invite him to be an image ambassador, and to take part in commercial shows. He thus got his first pot of gold to start his own business. Now Li has a fan club and an investment company. On May 29, 2001 Sino-Swiss Property Fund Co., Sichuan Qili Pharmacy Co. and Li's company co-invested 93.75 million Swiss Francs in Sichuan Province to build a medicine factory. Li also has some properties in Chengdu and Switzerland.

Just like his saying on the cover of his autobiography, "Surmount every obstacle", Li Donghua never believes in fate.

pictures between two closed computers about 10 meters or 30 meters apart, and now, I think maybe the reception is not all-around as reported," he said.

Some customers suspected that the general cell phone with Bluetooth function will cost 40% more than regular mobiles. Analysts, however, pointed out that despite the improvement of the new product, the prices is also a fundamental problem. A Bluetooth mobile was targeted at 6800 yuan in Beijing.



Ericsson's fashion models with "Bluetooth"

Doubts over Bluetooth

By Yang Qing

The world's giant mobile manufacturer Ericsson released their latest mobile product, "Bluetooth", into the Chinese market in late August.

The company reported this would constitute a revolution for the mobile market. It said that people have formed a concept of "Bluetooth" technology for almost a year. The new models "T39mc" and "A3618", with "Bluetooth" technology, enable wireless connections between high-

tech devices. One of the models "T39mc" can access the Internet as quickly as possible and support GPRS at the same time. To some degree, it would be an excellent assistant while dealing with out-of-time-zone business contacts.

An unnamed analyst said that "Bluetooth" is just a kind of wireless network technology. Bluetooth devices have antenna transmitters and receive commands and telephone calls within a limited distance. "The first goal for Bluetooth is to deal with many digital files and

Kodak to Build Photo Database

By Shan Jinliang

Kodak announced it would cooperate with China's National Tourism Administration (CNTA) on Tuesday in an attempt to promote the country's tourism industry. At the same time, Kodak has become China's officially designated tourism film.

It is said the company plans to invest 3 million yuan to aid CNTA in establishing a large-scale photo database of tourism resources. The base will take in almost 10,000 photos, and fully exhibit China's 27 World Heritage Sites, other natural scenic spots and folk customs throughout the country.

Kodak set up its first office in Shanghai in 1927, and has over 27 agencies and 5 factories with more than 5,000 employees in China.

Beijing to Recruit 5,000 Foreign Professionals

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing is to recruit 5,000 foreign professionals to work in the capital in the next five years, according to the municipal government. In addition, the local government will also raise wages and perks of foreign experts gradually. Proper awards will also be granted to those who perform outstandingly in science and technology research.

The telecommunications and information industry, bioengineering and new pharmaceutical industry, laser-engineering-electrical industry, new materials, environment protection and resources recycling industry are the prior fields where top professionals are needed. Genetic



engineering, biochips, super integrated circuit and nanometer technology are industries foreign experts are encouraged to join.

The local government aims at stimulating the development of the Zhongguancun Hi-Tech Science Park while recruiting foreign talents. In the long term, the main objective is to raise the overall competitiveness of the capital city.

The municipal government is also keen to help science and technological enterprises in the private sector to attract foreign talent.

In the field of public administration, the government will further attract foreign experts to work in urban planning and designing, perfecting public facilities functions, ecology and environmental protection.

20 Million IT Jobs over 5 Years

By Zhao Hongyi

The State Development and Planning Committee (SDPC) estimates that 20 million jobs relating to the IT industry will be created over the next five years. The Committee also released recently its special initiative: to further develop the country's information and telecommunications network, aiming to be a global heavy-weight by 2005.

The special initiative estimates that by 2005, more than 70 million PCs will be in use, with total net surfers accounting for 8% of the total population. 40% of all families will have at least one telephone and TV, with radio covering more than 95% of the total population.

Over the next five years, the IT industry is estimated to grow at a speed of 30% annually, occupying 3% of the country's total GNP. The country's export of IT products will increase by 15% annually, taking a major part of the whole world's business.

Beijing Becomes National Technology Trade Center

By Zhao Pu

The contract volume of Beijing's technology market reached 14 billion yuan in 2000, an increase of 10% against 1990. The market accounts for one fifth of the total volume in the country, thus forming the biggest technology market in China.

Sectors such as information technology, biological engineering, new medicine, environment protection and resources utilization account for 58.3% of the total volume, indicating that high-tech achievements have become a major force propelling the development of Beijing's technology market.

Research centers and higher-academic institutions entered the market in 2000, forming the biggest technology sales group around the country with a total of 2,800 units. Zhongguancun Science Park accounted for 45% of Beijing's total market volume in 2000, reaching a contract volume of 6.3 billion yuan.

The technological achievements in Beijing's market have been sold to many other cities and provinces around the country. Guangdong Province topped the list with a purchasing amount over 1.1 billion yuan.

Professional Board Members Needed for Asset Restructuring

By Zhao Hongyi

Huarong, Great Wall, Orient and Cinda are the four state owned asset management corporations involved in the restructuring and disposing of bad loans from four state owned banks, namely China Industrial & Commercial Bank, China Construction Bank, Agricultural Bank of China and Bank of China.

Since their establishment in the late 90s, these four corporations have made great progress in disposal of bad loans and asset management.

Huarong recently recruited a retired engineer from Sichuan University to be the board member of Sichuan Furong Industrial Group. This industrial venture is under Huarong's management due to their debts to banks in Sichuan province, southwest China.

"We need thousands of professional experts in various fields, not only finance," said an official from the headquarters of Huarong Asset Management Corporation in Beijing.

"These board members will represent Huarong and be responsible for researching reform feasibility, monitoring capital flows and even daily business operations."

Treated Sewage Emerges as New Market

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing produces more than 2 million cubic meters of sewage each day. Half of the water is treated and only 400 thousand cubic meters is used for electricity generation or irrigation for lawns, occupying only 20% of the total volume. The remaining 80% is discharged directly into lakes and rivers.

This week, the Beijing Municipal Drainage Company reached an agreement with the Sanhe (three rivers) Electricity Generation Works, in neighboring Hebei province, to supply 80 thousand cubic meters of treated sewage for use in electricity generation. This is the first business transaction of its kind in the city.

Yang Xiangping, general manager of the Beijing Municipal Drainage Co. explained to our reporter why treated sewage cannot be fully utilized in the city. Misunderstandings towards safety and quality standards still exist. Moreover, due to the strains of capital investment, most of the residential communities and business districts have not yet set up sewage treatment facilities.

"Treated sewage is quite useful in terms of electricity generation at least," said Mr. Li Jixian, general manager of the Sanhe Electricity Generation Works, "as well as cooling and recycling in industrial production."

Beijing municipality will host an international symposium on urban sewage treatment, inviting experts around the world to discuss the drafting of possible policies, technological standards, business management formula and channels for financing. The municipal government aims at increasing the utilization rate of sewage water to 50% by the year of 2006.



Treated sewage enjoys a huge potential market both in Beijing and the whole country. The large amount of investment and advanced technology needed, offers a huge role for foreign investors to play.

Photo by Zhuang Jian



Beijingers have been expecting a theme park for several years. It has also been regarded as a stimulus for economic growth.
Photo by Zhuang Jian

Theme Park Coming Soon to the Capital

By Zhao Hongyi

A theme park is to arrive in Beijing within the next ten years. This news has induced ferocious debate among the mass media and Beijingers.

According to the latest statistics, there are over 80 artificial scenic spots in the city, with 35 theme parks. But due to lack of investment, most of these theme parks are quite small in size and inferior in quality. Except for a few success stories like the World Park and Shijingshan Entertainment Park, most

of them are running huge deficits.

"The municipal government and the theme park industry have had the intention to build up one or two theme parks for more than a decade," said Wen Ziji, deputy director general of the Municipal Tourism Bureau. The proposed park is planned to be ready for Beijing to host the 2008 Olympic Games.

In addition, a number of foreign companies have already expressed an interest to participate in the design and construction of the theme park. The American Embassy in Beijing has contacted the Municipal Tour-

ism Bureau recommending possible American companies to invest in shares.

According to Mr. Wen, the bureau has already contacted Universal Studios for possible cooperation. The biggest challenge for this theme park is not investment or construction, but choice of location and formulation of design concepts and management.

Regulations stipulate that any large-scale theme park should be established outside the current fourth ring road. The proposed theme park will quite possibly be constructed in the southeast of the city.

International Exhibition Enterprises Run to China to Share Cake

By Shan Jinliang

With China's forthcoming entry into WTO, the country's exhibition halls and centers are worried that their business will suffer once international exhibition giants open their exhibitions in China. A feeling of crisis is forcing them to strengthen their horizontal connections.

China International Exhibition Center's exhibition forecast states that there will be dozens of exhibitions from now to the end of this year with some 20 marked "international". Among them are not only exhibitions on toys, spectacles, cosmetics and costumes, which may arouse the public's interest, but also some professional ones, like exhibitions on mega screens, paper-making and forestation. The attending enterprises are mostly from the United States, Canada, Japan and some European countries.

It is said that the international exhibition economy has been developing at a fast speed. The direct output of global exhibitions reached \$280 billion last year, while the number of domestic exhibitions is steadily on the rise. Over 1,200 exhibitions were held last year nationwide, which is 10 times the total number of domestic ones in the 29 years before China's opening up. It is predicted by the industry that Beijing's exhibition economy will contribute 18 billion yuan. With the huge market and China's forthcoming entry into WTO at the end of this year, the exhibition economy has experienced heated competition.

With China's exhibition economy soaring, the scramble for the



Domestic exhibition enterprises are preparing for the upcoming competition from foreign counterparts after the country's entry into WTO.
Photo by Zhuang Jian

"cake" is intensified, according to some people in the industry. It means that some barriers to the exhibition industry are vanishing. For example, foreigners are not currently able to hold exhibitions independently or set up exhibition halls or centers with foreign capital; however, these policies will be flexible after China's entry into WTO. "The national exhibition industry will experience a violent impact," said Liang Wen, Vice manager of China International Exhibition Center, also a senior official of China Exhibition Hall Association.

Indeed the impact is just around the corner. In the international auto exhibition in Shanghai earlier this year, many world renowned auto makers did not participate,

whereas the auto exhibition held by Germany's Hanoverian company made industry experts experience the power of international exhibition giants.

Mr. Liang says, exhibitions in China have been flourishing as the industry has grown 8% in recent years. Many problems still exist however. First of all, China does not have a unified law on exhibitions, which puts repeated, small-sized and low-quality exhibitions under different departments. Secondly, no specified departments examine or inspect the exhibition holders, and so exhibitions of low quality are organized. In the end, there is a lack of professional talent and theoretical research.

English-version Textbooks Enter Uni Classrooms

By Yang Cheng/Chen Huiying

As the new semester begins, some university students will be carrying English versions of their textbooks into class.

Adopting English version textbooks is a new trend in Beijing's universities. More and more universities are now running courses that use English version textbooks for non-Eng-

lish-major students, especially for those majoring in computing, management and economics.

Tsinghua University currently offers 54 subjects that require students to use English textbooks. Each subject has two streams per semester: one is conducted bilingually, the other in English. Students can choose either. If they pass the English one, their transcript will be marked

"Eng". Last year, the university spent 23 billion yuan on English version textbooks.

Beijing University doesn't have a uniform policy regarding textbooks, but leaves the choice up to the relevant departments. Professors with overseas educational background prefer to use such textbooks and let their students do presentation and research reports according to international academic stan-

dards.

"In general, they are well written and many have been revised and updated several times in the latest editions," says Jin Fuchun, a professor from China Center for Economic Research. Among the students, English version textbooks are popular for high standard of their case studies, statistical analysis, and beautiful graphs.

However, studying entirely

from English textbooks is still at the experimental stage. Students find it expensive to buy such textbooks. On average, the price of an imported book is five times that of a domestically published one. Also it takes students time to get used to the terms and expressions. Many take electronic dictionaries to class with them when using such textbooks for the first time.



A sales-assistant makes a mold of Mr. Wang's hand, the first step in the 'cloning' process.

Photo by Sun Ming

First 'Clone' Shop in Beijing

By Sun Ming

"It is a very interesting thing to 'clone' my own hand," says Mr. Wang, a customer at Beijing's first, and so far only, 'clone' shop, called *Island of Love*.

Island of Love is located in East Xintiandi, a shopping mall in Wangfujing. Many 'cloned' body parts, such as faces, hands and feet, are displayed on the wall of the shop. They are so realistic that even wrinkles on the face and pores on the skin can clearly be seen when you look at them closely.

However, the 'cloning' method is quite simple. The shop staff make a mold of the part that the customer wants to 'clone', and just 15 minutes later, it will be ready.

According to He Wanling, an employee at *Island of Love*, they imported the 'cloning' technique from South Korea. More than one hundred customers have come to their shop since it opened in July. A man from Tianjin even rang them to ask if they could 'clone' a whole body for him!



By Sun Ming

★ The Chinese Academy of Sciences reports that the part of the human genome atlas allotted to Chinese scientists was completed recently. It is a tremendously useful tool in terms of treating illness, developing drugs and probing new remedies.

★ Beijing Personnel Bureau says that Chinese students studying overseas will obtain financial aid if they come back to Beijing to start up their own enterprises. The highest grant will amount to 200,000 yuan.

★ According to the Beijing Personnel Bureau, more graduates from Beijing's universities have found jobs this year than last year, with the employment rate reaching 86%.

★ Beijing Normal University will open its Cultural Relic Museum in October. About 30,000 rare cultural relics will be shown, many of which have high academic value.



Hand Model Seeks Compensation for Dog Bite

By Ji Chuanpai/Li Shouen

A model who was bitten by a dog last year has filed a suit for 90,000 yuan in the Haidian People's Court, a record amount in Beijing for such a case. Xie Aihong claimed 80,000 yuan in economic losses and 10,000 yuan for suffering from the owner of the dog.

According to Xie, the incident occurred while she was out walking her own dog on August 24 last year. She says she saw three dogs owned by Liu Xiaohong. When the cousin of the owner warned her that one of the dogs was very aggressive and might attack her pet, she bent down to pick up her dog. At that moment, one of Liu Xiaohong's dogs jumped up and bit her on the left hand.

Xie told the court that until the incident, she had worked as a hand model, and the importance of her two hands was obvious. The distinct scar on her hand left by the attack ended her modeling career; she had to terminate three signed contracts, resulting in a direct loss of 80,000 yuan.

She also said that her physical and mental suffering resulted entirely from Liu Xiaohong and Liu Xiaobing's carelessness with the dogs, which was why she had filed a law suit against them.

The court deferred making a ruling because of the absence of the two defendants.



The scar caused by the dog bite

Photos by Ji Chuanpai



Chai Xuefen ties a Chinese knot at Beijing Friendship Store

Photo by Su Wei

Say Good Luck with Chinese Knots

By Su Wei

"Look, how beautiful they are! My friend will like it very much!" Zheng Feng, a tourist from Guangdong, is choosing a gift for a friend back home at the Bai Shitang counter at Xin Dong'an Market in Wangfujing. It is his first visit to Beijing and he really wants to bring back some presents for his friends. After much searching, he has found something ideal — Chinese knots.

Traditional Chinese Decoration Knots are a kind of folk art and decoration handicraft all in one; combining elaborate knots with auspicious adornments.

According to a salesperson at Bai Shitang, a Beijing company specializing in this type of craft, Chinese knots are extremely popular with customers from other provinces and overseas. They sell especially well during the peak tourist season and around the beginning of Spring Festival.

Chai Xuefen has worked at the Beijing Friendship Store at Jianguomen for almost two years, and is able to make some simple Chinese knots on spot for customers. According to Chai, due to their special meaning and fine craftsmanship, many foreigners like to buy Chinese knots as souvenirs. 'Good luck', 'Eternal Happiness', 'Longevity'

and 'A smooth journey' are the best selling ones. "I am proud to be an employee of Yuzhang Company. Our company can design all kinds of Chinese knots upon demand. Chinese knots are a part of Chinese culture, with a history dating back as far as the Tang Dynasty. Now they are booming again!"

Chai says that Chinese knots can be hung in rooms or cars for decoration, worn as necklaces or earrings, or utilized for practical purposes such as tableware or lipstick boxes. "Usually making a simple knot only takes me 3 or 4 minutes, but the adjustment takes a long time, maybe 20 minutes. It requires great care and patience." She says she considers making Chinese knots a way of experiencing the beauty of Chinese culture.

Another Chinese knot-making company, called Novel, set up one of its counters in Wangfujing Department Store. Bi Chunqiu, a salesperson for the company says most of their customers are from other provinces. She says people like Chinese knots because of the beautiful design and the bright red color. Red stands for happiness, and giving Chinese knots to friends or relatives is the same as bringing good luck to them."

Bi is confident that these traditional handicrafts will not disappear, but rather will become more and more popular.

Pull up a Chair at Maccas

By Chen Ying

No matter whether people buy a hamburger at McDonald's or not, they can sit down for a rest on the chairs outside the McDonald's near Tianqiao this summer. It is a convenience for pedestri-

ans, especially people waiting for a bus at the nearby bus stop.

Several McDonalds in Beijing have placed chairs and tables on the street outside this summer. The manager of the Tianqiao store said "These chairs and tables are not exclusively for McDonald's customers, but also for passers by".



Photo by Chen Ying

From Bulletin



Photo by ChenYing

to Billboard



Companies rush to advertise on campus

By Chen Ying

Schools and campuses remain a culture's most tangible embodiment of public space and collective responsibility. University campuses in particular — with their residences, libraries, green spaces and common standards for respectful discourse — play a crucial, if largely symbolic role: they are the one place left where young people can see a genuine public life lived.

"These quasi-sacred spaces remind us that unbranded space is still possible," writes Naomi Klein, author of "No Logo".

Not for much longer in Beijing. Twenty-two new stainless steel notice boards recently appeared at the main entrance, dormitories, canteens and library of Beijing Youth Politics College. Ten stainless steel notice boards have also gone up on Beijing Medical University campus.

The campus bulletin board, a vital source of student information exchange, now has a new purpose. Beijing Tiandi Dafang Advertising Company has 30 con-

tracts with city universities to erect notice boards on their campuses. The company is in charge of building the boards and repairing them.

A Beijing Tiandi Dafang Advertising Company spokesman said that the introduction of advertising on campus was inevitable as universities reform today. At the investment fair in July, there were more than 20 companies who wanted to sign up for advertisements on campus. These companies, he said, have the foresight to realize their actions not only to improve their social status, but also to attract excellent students to work for them one day.

While the universities can use two-thirds of the board space, he said, the remaining third belongs to its advertisers, of whom there is no shortage. Opinions follow:

Ma Chang, administrator, Capital University of Economics and Business

Wherever people congregate, there should be business advertisements. University campuses match this condition. There are

also many high-quality, academic people in universities. But the content of the advertisements should be suitable for the campus environment, students' needs and their majors' character. Universities must own the right to choose and modify the content of advertisements.

Sandy Zhao, student, Beijing Medical University

Students can read more messages through this project. After all, two thirds of area will be used for students.

Dai Ruxing, student, Beijing Medical University

It is easy to understand this decision as universities can save money and the company can improve their income. Each takes what he needs.

Li Qian, student, Beijing Medical University

If the company donated open notice boards for free, then I would support the project. But as the company benefits from the project, I disagree with it.

Chen Huiying, postgraduate student, Beijing University

Since a business company can own one third area of the board by investing, it could own the whole area in future. I think the most necessary thing for students is some space to exchange, such as renting information, buying cheaper books.

If the notice boards with business advertising are erected across the whole campus, then the allotted space to students decreases relatively.

Zheng Yefu, sociology professor, Renmin University

I dislike advertisements coming into universities. The campus should keep its purity. I am surprised the leaders of universities have agreed to sign the contract.

I think that it is unwise to let business information flow into campus. Today, students already have plenty of opportunities to face economic temptation. The universities should not join in this process and allow further deterioration.

A university should keep its

reputation as a professional research institution. By persisting with this stand, the prestigious universities of the West never worry about financial problems.

Gan Beilin, Beijing Education Committee

The committee disagrees with pure business advertising on campus. The main function of a university is to teach students. Universities should keep their cultured atmosphere and character. Universities aren't stores or business districts. It is improper to mount advertisements on campuses.

Stephen Anderson, Commercial Attaché, United States Embassy, Beijing

I taught as a professor in America. The campus is usually a part of town, and there isn't always an obvious border between campus and other parts of a city. As I recall, there were all kinds of advertisements on campus, including business advertising. A company can freely advertise on campus in most cases, but will pay to have ads in campus newspapers.

SOUND BITES

"I'm watching the athletes' faces and their faces tell me they are very happy. This is the test for the village."

"For all the abilities and experience of the Chinese people and Chinese sports people, you know and we know, you would deliver the greatest Games in 2008."

—Kevin Gosper, Vice President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on the Athletes' Village of the 21ST Universiade in Beijing

"I simply cannot understand how Ken Clarke could lead today's Conservative party to anything other than disaster. He is at odds with the majority of its members on too many issues."

—Margaret Thatcher, in a letter to the English newspaper Daily Telegraph

"It's a form of cultural imperialism. No matter what the situation, or where the film is supposed to be set, an American has to be central, to be seen as the good guy, or to save the day in some way."

—Robert Harris, novelist, criticizes Hollywood blockbusters

"I expected XP would be ready on Friday and that production of the new system could then start next Monday."

—Steve Ballmer, Microsoft CEO at a technology conference in Sao Paulo on August 20

by Chen Ying

北京青年报
BEIJING TODAY
今日北京

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A YOUNG Industry With Extensive Prospects

By Wei Feng

China's total output value (TOV) reached 8,900 billion yuan in 2000, however the turnover of the consultancy business amounted to just under 10 billion yuan, or 0.11% of the total. This figure includes income from consultancy on immigration, overseas studies and advertising; the amount derived from business consultancy, such as enterprise and management strategies was less than one billion. By comparison, in the United States, the turnover of the consultancy business amounted to over 30 billion US dollars in the middle of 1990s. Although the consultancy industry is still in its infancy here, the Chinese have grasped its importance. As one of the six key industries of the venture board stocks, it has a great potential and is attracting more and more investment.

The state of the consultancy industry in China

In China, business consultancy is a newly developing industry. It aims to provide consumers with various special consulting services, in the fields of financial management, market research, medicine and health and so on. Great attention is paid to the industry, as it has the potential to provide guidance in a wide range of areas; from strategy plans for large-scale enterprises to family finance; life guidance and elimination of psychological problems; helping society, work units, families and individuals.

In the 1980s, work was undertaken to study and introduce international theories and methods, combining the national conditions and the actual enterprise situations. However, for a variety of reasons, such as lack of understanding among the public, poorly trained employees, low involvement of experts, lack of

national support and management shortcomings, the efforts resulted only in small-scale market success.

Management Consultancy Has Strong Potential

Though China's consultancy industry is not well developed, once a certain consultancy enterprise engages in its particular field of service, a "self-creation" course begins, and it can either accumulate experience, or set up an image of its brand, or attract more customers and demand. Therefore, the consultancy industry in China has a great deal of potential. Management consultancy is seen as one of the most promising.

As Huang Dongtao, from Beijing Guanghua Management College, points out, "The required gross

efficient volume in the Chinese consultancy business was about 0.1 billion US dollars in 2000, compared with 160 billion in the United States. In the next 10 years, the requirements of China's management consultancy industry will increase 10-fold annually. By 2010 the gross efficient volume will be 10 billion US dollars." Especially due to the difficulties in state-run and private enterprises, management consultancy has great potential.

Because the enterprise management system in China is not well established yet, management consultancy companies haven't identified the specific service areas, capital is short, consultancy staff are few, and the organizing management is weak. The local consultancy industry is still disadvantaged compared with their foreign counterparts. On the other hand, China's consultancy industry has certain advantages: the native consultancy managers are much more familiar with

the national conditions, history and culture than the foreign ones, and hence able to minimize costs and fees; they are better placed to obtain key marketing information; and can easily communicate with the customers.

Internet consultancy set to prosper

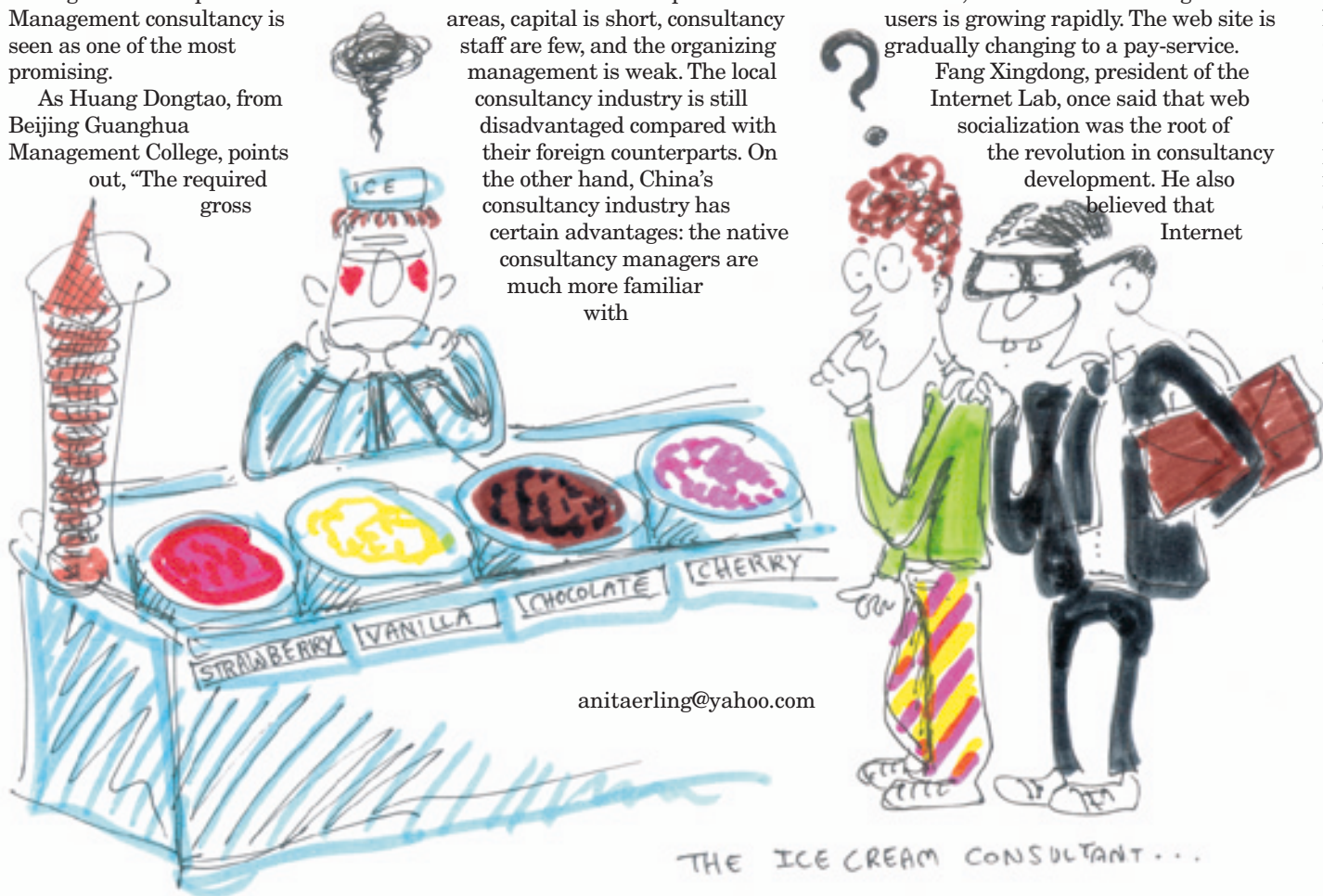
With increasing knowledge of products and planning designs, consultancy agencies are getting an important sales force. With the help of the Internet, trading efficiency is much increased. www.Askme.com is a web site providing various consultancy services, and the number of registered users is growing rapidly. The web site is gradually changing to a pay-service.

Fang Xingdong, president of the Internet Lab, once said that web socialization was the root of the revolution in consultancy development. He also believed that Internet

consultancy was between the overlap of technology providers, customers, and society, and has its own value characteristics. So, China Internet consultancy business may become a famous brand, as Legend did in PC market of the 90s. Unlike the traditional consultancy business, Internet consultancy will supply enterprises with Internet service and consultancy, connecting management ideas and new commercial modes with the modern IT technologies. Web socialization has really triggered the development of the Internet consultancy industry. In the next five to ten years, there will be a high information development period in China.

Though Internet consultancy has only just taken its first step, and there are still a number of teething problems, many people are confident in it. Around the globe, the future of Internet consultancy looks very promising. Last year, the income of 24 Internet information companies was doubled, nearly to 3 billion US dollars. It is estimated the scale of the Internet consultancy market will increase from the 10.6 billion US dollars of 1999 to 64.8 billion in 2003. Under such circumstances, China's Internet consultancy business market has a rosy future.

After China's entry to the WTO, the service sector, including the consultancy business, will be further opened to the outside world, and foreign companies will be allowed to deal with payment service businesses. Foreign consultancy companies' large-scale entry into China's consultancy sector will be a strong impetus for the domestic consultancy industry, investments in the sector will grow significantly, management systems will approach international standards, while the consultancy service level will also rapidly increase.



In Celebration of International Year of Volunteers



By Ivy Zhang

Beijing Environmental Volunteers Network

Beijing Environmental Volunteers Network (BEV-NET) is an environmental NGO founded in September 2000 by three Japanese. The organization currently has about 20 regular members, however including those on the mailing list, the total can reach 88.

Volunteers from Japan, China, South Korea, Australia and Germany take part in a variety of activities at the China-Japan Friendship Environmental Protection Center. The activities aim to increase public awareness on environmental protection, share experiences and promote mutual understanding among different countries. One of the BEV-NET founders, Director Matsue Naoko explains, "Japan did experience a period of over-consumption and fought hard against environmental pollution. China is developing rapidly now and many Chinese people lack environmental protection knowledge. We want to do something to help China avoid the environmental problems that Japan has faced".

During the past year, specialists have been invited to deliver speeches at seminars on different subjects, such as water management, tree planting, green vegetable production, etc. Also, members were organized to visit a green farm this June. The farm is owned by a retired Chinese technical professional and grows green vegetables in the outer Beijing suburb of Changping.

At a seminar held in affiliation with the Green Association of



Matsue Naoko
Director of the BEV-NET

Beijing Foreign Economic and Trade University, Matsue Naoko was impressed by the questions posed by students, such as those about whale killing in Japan and the import of disposable chopsticks from China. The year 2001 has been declared Purchasing Green Products Year, by the China Consumers Association. In collaboration with the China Environment and Sustainable Development and Research Center (CESDRRC), BEV-NET plans to publish an Organic and Green Food Consumer Guide both in Chinese and English soon, with an aim to spread knowledge within Beijing's international community about food safety as well as Green Food Symbols printed on products' packages.

Also, BEV-NET members would like to share some environmental experiences and protection methods, they use in their daily lives with Chinese people.

Naoko Matsue said, Japanese consumers fear the adverse influence of endocrine disruptors in pesticides, plastics and other chemicals. If the water is polluted by



National UNV Yan Jiping serving in Enshi, Hubei Province is teaching fruit tree grafting skill to local farmers and technicians

Provided by Beijing International Volunteers Association

this kind of chemicals, it causes deformity of the sexual organs of wild fishes and animals. I am afraid that Chinese economical development is so rapid and people are using more and more plastics and chemicals without consideration of its influence to the environment. It would occur the same result to the human beings as these fishes and animals faced. Also, the increasing number of leukemia children in China might be due to the environmental pollution.

Therefore Naoko Matsue and the other members of BEV-NET hope to help China getting closer to a more sustainable development of their economy and that the level of environmental protection and its awareness will further increase.

Beijing Today reporter interviewed Ms. Wang Xin, Programme Officer of BIVA on Aug. 14. Below are excerpts of the interview.

Beijing Today: Could you please provide an overview about BIVA? Wang Xin: The United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) was

created by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1970. It reports to UNDP and works through UNDP's country offices around the world. BIVA is mandated by CI-CETE and UNDP to manage UNV program in China with a commitment to promote voluntary work and international exchange of volunteering. From 1981 up to now, UNV have sent over 200 international UN Volunteers to China making contributions in the areas of English teaching, environmental protection, gender development and poverty alleviation. Meanwhile, China has also sent more than 160 Chinese UN Volunteers to more than 30 developing countries in the fields of agriculture, water conservation, medical care, etc.

What projects are you working on?

In 1997, China initiated National UNV programme that was designed to meet the development needs of the central and western regions. So far, over 50 national UNVs have been dispatched to Shandong, Hubei, Chongqing, Si-



Ms. Wang Xin
Programme Officer of BIVA

chuan, and Guizhou, serving in the area of legal aid for the poor, poverty alleviation, and project management. For instance, 6 lawyers in Qingdao, Shandong Province, handled more than 500 legal cases for disadvantaged groups of people within 3.5 years and the number of beneficiaries has reached 3,000. In Enshi, Hubei province, more than 30 national UN Volunteers have provided technical support to local poor farmers since 1998. Besides the UNV program, BIVA is also working on capacity building projects for peoples in western China through designing and implementing various training programs. What activities to be organized in celebration of International Year of Volunteers (IYV)?

The UN Assembly designated the year 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers (IYV 2001) in 1997. With its four objectives of enhanced Recognition, Facilitation, Networking and Promotion of volunteer service, IYV provides an unique opportunity to highlight the achievement of volunteers and encourage more people to volunteer themselves. The China Na-

tional Committee for IYV 2001 was set up to plan and coordinate related activities during IYV 2001. The International Conference on Volunteering is one of the major events during IYV in China, which will be held from Nov. 7 to 9 at Beijing, where 300 attendees from home and abroad expected. BIVA has been involved in the preparation for the establishment of the IYV National Committee and is appointed as the Secretariat of the 2001 International Conference on Volunteering. A large philanthropic performance for IYV 2001 is to be staged on Dec. 5 (the International Volunteer's Day).

What's the qualification for expatriates who want to do voluntary work in Beijing?

For non-Chinese citizens interested in becoming a UN Volunteer in China, they should be in good health, have academic credentials, with at least 5 years relevant working experience and have a good working knowledge of English, Chinese is an asset. We also plan to develop a special project targeted at those expatriates living in Beijing, who are interested in voluntary works for a short or long period.

Any contact information? As to the recruitment, people who are interesting in becoming a volunteer can send their resume and expectations to BIVA at wangxin@civa.org.cn. You can also register yourself on our website, <http://www.civa.org.cn> or www.chinaiva.org, where you can find more information about us. By the way, we are now having an International UNV post vacancy in our BIVA office, those with NGO experience preferred. Any one interested can contact me by phone at 10-62016342.

Beijing 21st Universiade August 22 - September 1

“Hi, Beijing!”



Kevin Gosper, Vice President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), arrived on August 19 for a four-day visit to Beijing. He was impressed by the Press Center and Athletes' Village of the 21st Universiade. He believed Beijing would deliver the greatest Games in 2008. The photo was taken in Tian'anmen.

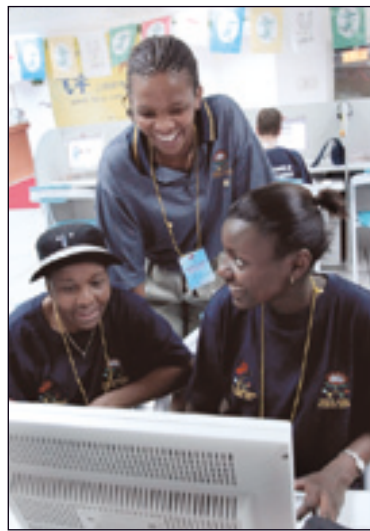
Photo by Peng Zhangqing

The Festival Greet Youth



The fanfare and pageantry at the 21st Universiade opening ceremony
Xinhua Photo

Internet Bar at Village



information of the Universiade and other sports news, or just surfing on the internet for fun,” Liu said.

An elder official came to the bar soon after he settled down in the village, and got excited when he received the E-mail sent by his children, which included the pictures of their just-born baby, Liu said, adding that the elder man printed out all those pictures and was so proud of being a grandfather.

The elder man thanked the bar working staff for providing him with an opportunity to get to know this good news on time, Liu added.

The Feiyu Internet Bar in the Athletes' Village has attracted many foreign athletes who are eager to contact with their relatives or friends, Liu Qian, the manager of the bar told reporters here Saturday.

“Since the opening of the Village, many foreign athletes have spent most of their spare time in the internet bar, sending and receiving E-mails, browsing for the

Cedric Anen, a male fencer of the Luxembourg delegation, said at the bar that he arrived at the Village August 20 and came here to contact with his relatives and friends.

And the charge for the internet surfing, which costs less than one dollar per hour, is quite reasonable and acceptable, he added.

(Xinhua)

“More, please!”



Athletes munched 600 Beijing roast ducks at lunch in the Athletes' Village on August 22
Photo by Jia Ting



Athletes' Village Shows Beijing Opera

By Xiao Rong

The magic of Beijing Opera enchanted the Athletes' Village August 20. Young athletes, delegation officials and volunteers all sat together in the central garden, watching with curiosity and wonder. Some even leaned out of the apartment buildings above to watch.

“I don't quite understand the words they are saying, but it's really interesting,” said a member of the Polish women's soccer team.

Her feelings were shared by many, as for most of the audience this is their first time in Beijing and their first contact with Beijing Opera. Some asked what the story was about, others just clapped happily to the music.

Not everyone was experiencing the

opera for the first time, however.

Bassam Lahoud from Lebanon said he had seen a Beijing Opera performance in south China, while Puttan Apichet, a member of the Thai men's soccer team, said he had seen it back in his own country.

Cameras flashed and video cams whirled. At the end of each of the three pieces performed, audience members ran up and asked to take a photo with the actors and actresses.

“The dresses they wear are so beautiful,” said one. “Although I just came here for a few minutes, I couldn't help being attracted to it.”

Sandor Tabor from the Spanish fencing team went to the Great Wall and Tian'anmen Square yesterday, which made the opera seem slightly less unusual.

“We don't know Beijing Opera before,” he said, “but sightseeing around Beijing can no doubt help us learn more about Chinese culture.”

The performers were from the Beijing Opera Institute. They presented pieces entitled “At the Crossroads”, “Autumn River” and “Havoc in the Palace of the Dragon King”, which are among the most familiar to foreigners.

“We chose them because they are easier to understand, with more action than dialogues,” said He Zhili, the actress in “Autumn River”.

Further performances, including other forms of Chinese opera and folk music from around the country, will be staged in the central garden throughout the Games.

Photo by Xu Jiajun

Havana Chinatown Shirt Arouses Great Interest

By Zhu Lin

Many people are surprised to learn that there is a Chinatown in Cuba, but the Chinese have been part of Cuban history since at least 1847.

Pedro Carmona, physiotherapist of the Cuban Team for the 21st Universiade wore a shirt from Havana's Chinatown which caught the eye of many.

On the white shirt, there were the blue words “Martial Arts”, circling around the Chinese Taoist symbol, yinyang.

The Cuban athletes get help not only from the doctors, but also from Carmona, who mainly takes care of the athletes' emotions. His team uses Asian exercises. He became very reflective while talking about his career, “I'm a member of the Kungfu Cuban Association. I used to teach Judo and shadow boxing.”

A Gift from the Heaven



The magnificent rainbow in all its seven colors, a rare seen, spans the city, the site of the 21st Universiade in the wake of a rain on August 19
Photo by Qian Bingge

Photo by Jackey

Chasing a Dream Down the Catwalk



By Hu Xiaoli

Sitting in the corner of the Banquet Hall of China Grand Hotel, 22-year-old Jiang Peilin, wearing a simple black top and pink pants, smiled confidently.

There was to be a fashion show performed by New Silk Road Model Inc.(NSRMI) on the same floor in an hour. Jiang, as one of the rising models in NSRMI, was waiting patiently for her turn for make-up. Sunlight from the French window encircled her shoulder-length brown hair in a ring of gold. Slim and elegant, she was like a goddess from an oil painting. "But I never expected I could be a fashion model when I was young," she laughed, turning around to watch the models who were busily making up and dressing before the mirrors.

Olympic Rings in Her Eyes

Actually, Jiang had wanted to be a high-class athlete since the age of ten because she loved charging around on the playground. "To participate in the Olympic Games was my biggest dream as a teenager." She opened her eyes widely, as if looking for the memory in her hometown Harbin, a city in northeastern China, well known for its freezing long winters. Maybe it was the harsh climate that helped imbue Jiang with a firm and persistent character.

"I never gave up easily, even as a little child," Jiang described herself in a soft voice but with hidden fortitude in her deep eyes.

At the age of 14, Jiang was chosen by the City Sports Team to be a volleyball player. She still clearly remembers the first day she went to a training session. That was a chilly winter morning. The first training assignment was to run 10 laps around the playground with 400 meters a lap. After running 6 laps, she felt sick and extremely tired. The other athletes passed her one by one, and one of them turned around and cast a contemptuous glimpse at this new comer. Jiang gritted her teeth, dragging herself forward step by step. At the eighth lap, Jiang was the only one 'running' on the long race-track. The strict coach and all the athletes watched her silently at the finishing line; all the things on the playground were still and quiet, except a lone figure's slow movements and the yelling in a little girl's heart—Go on! Don't stop! Go on... "I didn't know how to get to the finishing line, but I was proud that I didn't quit although I was the last one," recalled Jiang seriously. She cast her eyes to the crowds outside the French window and said slowly, "The hardest thing in the world is to challenge and surpass yourself."

During the last term in college, where she majored in Sports Psychology, Jiang suddenly felt confused about her future since she had not had any chance to fulfill her dream as an athlete in the Olympic Games due to her age and body condition. Where was the next goal of life?—She asked herself many times. One day, Jiang got a call from a classmate in Shanghai, pushing her to try her luck as a model there. 'Model', 'Shanghai'—these two words suddenly ignited her desire to enter a whole new world.

To Shanghai with High Heels

Predictably, Jiang's parents didn't approve of her decision and refused to give her any money: "What's the good of becoming a model?" Her parents didn't believe it was a decent job and they weren't keen for their only daughter to go to such a faraway city alone. At last, Jiang's grandmother, who brought her up, gave her 3000 yuan, without saying anything. "My grandmother knows that once I decide on something, I will not change my mind easily." So, at the end of 1998, before her graduation, Jiang hopped on to the train to Shanghai yearning to see the outside world, but never expecting she could really step into model circles there.

Shanghai, Queen of the Orient, the land of dreams and prosperity, deeply attracted this young girl in the first week. But soon, she began to experience the price of finding herself in a strange city.

Jiang first joined a three-month model training class after being introduced by her classmate in Shanghai. "I just wanted to have a try because it was a very strange and new area in my life," she blinked her eyes sweetly, "and by the way, few girls would resist the temptation to wear beautiful clothes on the catwalk."

However, the lessons were not as easy as she thought. "I didn't even know how to walk in high-heeled shoes at the beginning." For a girl who had been used to wearing sports shoes, it was really a big challenge. Every day, Jiang stood or walked for five hours in those viciously uncomfortable high heels. Her feet blistered and bled for a long time, but she never winced when practicing strutting up and down the catwalk the following day. And that was not the worst thing. "I almost became autistic during that time," recalled Jiang with a bitter smile.

In the lessons, all the



① Making up before the show
② The model on the catwalk
Photos by Zhuang Jian



people including the teachers spoke Shanghai dialect, which is one of the most difficult dialects in China. Jiang didn't understand a word of it.

Once, in a very important rehearsal, the models were walking one by one on the catwalk accompanied by music, with the teacher instructing from off stage. Suddenly, the music stopped, the teacher shouted something, and all the models stopped to look at her, laughing. Jiang was then transfixed in the middle of the stage, staring blankly at the people before her. Actually, the teacher was telling Jiang to turn around, but she kept walking for she didn't understand the dialect. "That was the most embarrassing moment in my life," Jiang said.

During that time, Jiang lived with five other Shanghai girls in a dormitory. They spoke dialect to each other, as if ignoring her existence. "I was very lonely during those three months, but told my parents I was fine when I called home."

After the course was over, Jiang went home to spend Spring Festival. She was again happily surrounded by family love and didn't even want to go back to Shanghai. But after the final examinations in college, Jiang was back on the train to Shanghai. She explained the reason slowly, "I didn't want to be defeated in Shanghai, and I believed a brave and confident person would surely be able to rewrite their history."

Two months after she went to Shanghai, she finally got a chance to perform on a real catwalk. "That time, I felt very natural and confident on stage before the audience, and I suddenly got the same feeling which I had on the racetrack when I was walking accompanied by the music," Jiang's eyes sparkled with excitement, "I felt wonderful and excited again." Jiang finally found her new goal in life—to be an outstanding model in China.

The Catwalks of the Capital

Jiang then began to step into model circles in Shanghai. Due to her effort, confidence and intelligence, she had become a very promising model there. Jiang said, "I know I haven't got the most beautiful face and figure, but I am sure I am the most confident member on the stage."

After a year's struggle in Shanghai, Jiang earned a reputation in model circles. At that time, her contract with a well-known model agency in Shanghai expired and Jiang faced two choices—to stay in Shanghai or go to Beijing. Leaving Shanghai meant she had to abandon all she had got there, while going to Beijing, where there may be better opportunities, would mean starting from zero. Jiang chose to leave. "I wanted a change, a

new step in my career." She flew to Beijing last summer.

In Beijing, the competition among models is much fiercer than in Shanghai. Feeling isolated at first, Jiang put all her energy into her career.

"Models," she explained, "cannot just depend on their face and shape. An excellent model should understand each outfit, and her every turn, every step, and every expression should bring real beauty to the audience."

Before every fashion show, she would spend a lot of time looking at the background of designers—their personalities and design concepts. "I can tell any designer's style in China," she said proudly. Jiang also spent a lot of money on expensive fashion magazines in order to know world trends in fashion. "Once I have set my mind on something, I am likely to try my best to achieve it." This is her motto, and also the reason she has finally been welcomed by model circles in Beijing.

Now, Jiang has settled down in Beijing. Although she is still alone, she doesn't feel lonely any more. On the days she has no assignments, she cooks a rich breakfast for herself and then turns on the computer to read emails from friends, or browses the news and fashion trends in order to broaden her horizons. Jiang often has lunch and a chat with close friends in a quiet place. In the afternoon, she usually goes to the gym to work out. But no matter whether there is work or not, she always spends some time reading before sleep.

Jiang also likes to write essays. "Writing makes me quiet and less impetuous. I can see myself clearly through the words." Fashion circles are a colorful, but easily self-satisfied world. The contrast on and off stage is very sharp for many models. "So keeping an ordinary heart is very important," she said.

Jiang had to break off with her boyfriend when she left home to see the world. He asked her many times to go back to Harbin. "But I have my own way," she said affirmatively, although he is still the man she misses most of the time.

"If I have something which is worth being proud of," the girl smiled in the sunlight, "it is that I always have dreams and never easily give them up."

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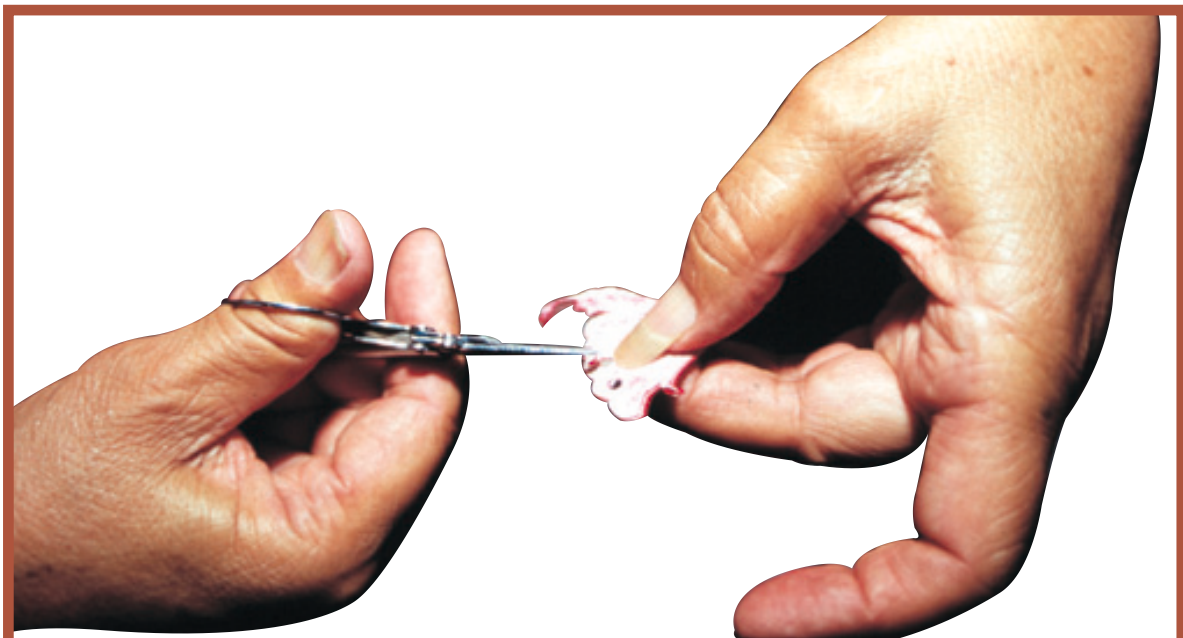
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By Michael Reynolds\Liu Lu\Wang Dan

Scissors in hand, she sliced through the red paper like a child unwrapping a present. In just a few seconds, all that was left was a paper butterfly in the palm of her hand. Shi Run, 62 years old, was demonstrating traditional Chinese paper cutting, a skill she has developed to a fine art. While most people would falter in attempting to make the most basic paper-cuts, Shi Run has spent her whole life mastering incredibly complex designs of her own. "Anything you like I can make for you," she says proudly. Her paper-cutting years have taken her a long way from her childhood days as the daughter of a poor coal miner in the countryside of Yang Ping, Shanxi province.

A Folk Art

The art of paper cutting has traditionally been confined to elderly women living in the countryside. Virtually no men have practiced it. "Very few people in Beijing can do this well," Shi Run confided, "but about half of the old ladies living the countryside of Shanxi, Shaanxi and Henan can do at least a little." In the past, paper cutting was one, if not the only, form of art that women could engage in. The oldest woman in the family usually passed the craft down, generation by generation. Sometimes it was the only kind of education that poor countryside girls could get.

Over the ages the color of the paper (usually red) to signify happiness and luck, size and type of image all came to represent some story or aspect of Chinese culture. Paper cutting has been used for funerals, weddings and interior decoration. "You see this one," Shi Run explains, "the six dragons and six phoenixes symbolize China's population."

In traditional Chinese culture, the phoenix was the female counterpart to the powerful, lucky and awe-inspiring dragon. Her other paper-cuts also depict



people and animals - particularly the twelve of the Chinese zodiac. From a rabbit the size of a thumb to a dragon the size of a large television, Shi Run has made thousands of them.

A Self-Taught Artist

At the age of six, Shi Run began observing how her mother made her paper-cuts. However, "I was her fifth child and she didn't have a lot of time to take care of me." Furthermore, her father was a coal miner. Early on Shi Run liked to put her paper-cuts on the windows of their home. "Our windows didn't have any glass," she recalled. "They were white paper, which made the paper-cuts very beautiful." As their home had no sewing machine, she was also inspired to begin making her own shoes by hand at the age of twelve.

Paper cutting has given Shi Run a way to express herself and become a success in her



own right. Now retired, she also formerly taught Russian. What is truly amazing is that Shi Run didn't even begin to go to school until the age of fourteen! A Beijing resident today, she is a mother of three boys and a grandmother as well.

Although most of Shi Run's paper-cuts are traditional, she has developed the ability to improvise new styles and forms. While window-shopping one day at the Xidan shopping center she spotted a model boat. "I made a paper-cut just like it, right on the spot," Shi Run says skill at painting is really necessary to practice this kind of art, but she has always used scissors as her brush.

Beginning in 1994, word of her unique skill began to spread. Since that time several newspapers have run articles about her. In 1997, she made an elaborate paper-cut to commemorate Hong Kong's return to mainland China and gave it to the flag-raising troops of

Tiananmen square. "People have often asked why I don't teach a class on paper-cutting to children, but my health is too poor." Instead, she wrote an instructional book that was published in August 2000 entitled "Clear Handed Kids Study Paper-cutting". Most of the designs in the book are of a more simple nature aimed for children.

The more detailed paper-cuts of Shi Run require excellent eyesight and precision. Unfortunately, "as one gets older one's hands become and more stupid," she related. Now at the age of 62, Shi Run still has many years ahead of her, but does take measures to protect her eyesight. "I don't watch very much TV-just the news." She also laments how the art of paper cutting is exhausting on the eyes. "I really don't make paper-cuts as much as I used to, but I still have excellent eyes. I think if I had gone to medical school, I could have become a great doctor."

Sharing her Passion

Lively and exuberant, Shi Run is as energetic about her hobby as can be. She often does her work outside where a throng of onlookers will group around her. "They are so beautiful," the crowd coos. Shi Run takes great pleasure in teaching others about her life-long passion. She is even quick to point out the mistakes in her own paper-cuts. "You see this one," she says while pointing to a beautiful dragon that appears entirely flawless. "It's a little messy because my eyes were so tired." Shi Run has taken the ancient art of paper cutting to a new level. Although she now only makes them during special occasions or holidays, she still enjoys a challenge by constantly pushing herself to make them better and better. "Paper cutting is like writing a story, you need an idea beforehand to execute them really well."

Perhaps since all three of her children are boys, they have not followed in their mother's footsteps in studying paper cutting. Although her oldest son has a boy himself, maybe her younger two sons will have a girl someday. In any case, Shi Run doesn't seem too worried because her work has already touched so many people's lives. Most importantly, she does it for her own pleasure. "A lot of people in the countryside can do this," she says.

Photos by Michael Reynolds

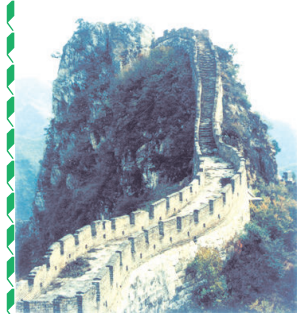


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Remarks on Love Affairs of Nothing More Than This

by Cui Yongyuan

After I joined the Department of Comments affiliated with China Central Television Station, I found I had less leisure time. I was happy that I am married and have a kid. Otherwise, I would have had no time to attend to the matter.

Later, I thought it over and found that it is not a question of time. There are difficulties for my male colleagues at the department to find marriage partners. They are busy with their daily routines, going out to collect materials and shooting TV footage, later rushing back to do editing. It is rare for them to have the time inviting the girls they like to go boating or play. Although my colleagues often interview people, they can't talk about love and court with the girls they interview. It seems that it is contrary to the unwritten regulations of the profession. In this way, they have to turn their eyes back to women colleagues. It is not too easy. Both men and women at the department are often out late enjoying the city's nightlife. Their faces are pale. Men lose their vitality and women do not look as beautiful as they ought to. At a get-together of the department staff, I composed a program known as sanjuban (a genre of popular entertainment of talking and singing in the form of three-and-a-half sentences). A line about the young women editors at our department reads, "When you see them two years later, (they will look like) your sisters-in-law." My program struck a responsive chord in the hearts of the women editors.

Our department is affiliated with the China Central Television Station. There exists a tendency of superior-

ity among the young men and women there. They think they are superior by working at a department under the central government. It is impossible for handsome young men and beautiful young women from companies or institutions other than those under the central government to become their marriage partners.

To make things worse the television station often sponsors theatrical performances and entertainment programs. There are quite a few national-level pretty hostesses. Young men from our department often meet these beautiful women, hoping to find a marriage partner as pretty as the program hostesses. Of course, it is difficult.

I often noticed that, when there was nothing to do for the young men at the department, they just chewed on the odd biscuit if they were hungry, or lay down in a sofa and fell asleep. They were listless. I felt pity for them. What would their parents think if they saw them?

This problem is easily identifiable, but difficult to solve: the efforts of both the leaders and the staff are needed. The leaders always tell our young men and women to concentrate on work, although the leaders themselves are married. Of course, the young men and women at our department have to rely mainly on themselves to solve their problems.

So, I urged my young colleagues to watch the American movie Titanic and learn from the examples of the leading characters. The male leading role, a young man, is poor. However, he feels neither depressed nor inferior. He won a steamer ticket in gambling and dared to court a young woman in the first-class cabin even when he knows the woman is the fiancée of someone else (this is something my colleagues better not learn from him).

What they should learn from him is his courage to pursue love. This is precisely the charm of men. My women colleagues should learn from the woman leading character too. They should learn from her valuing a man's affections and talents, and the true love she will have instead of his money and position, or what she might lose. The love between the leading characters is tear evoking.

The environment for the leading characters in the movie is bad. They are treated with disdain on the ship, and there is a man attempting to kill them. True love can stand test. Once, when a young colleague of mine and I talked about love and marriage, his immediate reflection is something about housing, residence registration, and furniture... He forgot that the two leading characters in the movie are still aboard the ship and their future hangs in the balance.

As the ship is sinking, the man leading character who stands in the chilly water tells the leading woman character, "Promise me, you'll live a good life." I was moved to tears. Really, I want to shed tears for the love affairs of my colleagues too.

All of us will be old. It will be a lifelong regret if we find there are gold and silver medals, praises, and other honors except love when we are old with silver hair all over our heads and recall our the events we have experienced.

Spring has come. Come on my young colleagues. Please race against time and look for the love that belongs to you. You just cast away all the thoughts that have distracted you, advance courageously regardless of what lies ahead, a land of mines or a bottomless chasm.

Now, spring is here. Is autumn, a time of harvest, far away?

Cui Yongyuan's New Book-A Unique Work of Cultural Significance

by Liu Zhengyun

So far I have only met Cui Yongyuan twice, the host of CCTV's talk show "Say What You Want to Say." My second meeting with Cui was related to his book *Nothing More Than This*. He wanted me to finish the book, still unpublished, and tell him what I feel about it. Doubtful about the quality of the book, I told myself on the way back with the manuscript in my arms: those who speak well don't necessarily write well; and those who play with spears cannot necessarily put on a monkey show. I had already read quite a few similar books by celebrities, and all of them turned out to be quite amateurish. But when I finished Cui's

book, I blurted out: He's not bad.

The book is structured in a unique way, with the stories sequenced with little regard to their chronological order but in accordance with his current understanding about life; for instance, his understanding about eating, sleeping, being on the road and speaking. After several decades of sediment and filtering, he has grasped the fragments and echoes of the language remaining in his mind and let them resurface. If such structuring skill is applied in literary works, it will be seen as avant-garde.

Although this book is also about his relationship with his relatives, friends and work mates, about today and tomorrow, and about excitement, sadness and frustra-

tions, he adopts a middle-aged man's aloof attitude toward all the loves and hates--"there is nothing more than this." The book is full of self-satire, instead of self-love.

And his pose is also unique. He splits his working identity and his real self in life. In his retrospect of the past, he has a stronger longing for the working people's life. It seems that he prefers to be in remote north-eastern China, northern Shaanxi Province and Xinjiang than to stay comfortably in hotel lobbies.

The book, though written in a seemingly casual and simple style, contains abundant cultural significance. To put it another way, it is the power of culture that has made the book outstanding.

It's Nothing More Than This

by Xiao Yang

Cui Yongyuan is really an unassertive person. It seems that he has named his new book based entirely on assumptions on how readers will perceive it. As the title hints, the book is "*Nothing More Than This*."

There is no reason to blame Cui for publishing such a book, which has actually amused me so much that I couldn't stop chuckling while reading it. Why can celebrities publish books? It is simply because they are famous and ordinary people are curious as to how they have grown up, what they have been thinking about, and what they love. And that is the selling point. In this regard, Cui has done a good job. So

if we have to blame somebody, we should blame those critics who have excessively exaggerated the achievements of the book.

I decided to read the book after reading the reviews by two famous writers, who praised the book the way as if it is an unprecedented literary work. What I still remember is one writer's comment: "I think Cui Yongyuan has entered the wrong profession."

I really cannot understand why the writers extol each other's books so excessively. Not long ago, a writer published a series of novels on adolescence, in the postscript of which were flattering reviews by other writers. When I opened the book, however, there was nothing more than slang and boring stories of teenagers.

We may rewrite the fable of "*The Emperor's New Clothes*" as "*A New Book of A Celebrity*." The story goes like this: A celebrity, though aware of his own mediocre intelligence, has written a book. Yet two writers, for reasons unknown, tell everybody that the celebrity's book is extraordinary and contains great cultural significance. The readers are thinking: since both writers are widely recognized for their wisdom and judgment, I will be laughed at if I say this book is not as good as they say. As a result, all the people acclaim that the book is even greater. At this moment, however, some unsophisticated people blurt out, "How come I feel it's nothing more than this?"



Photo by Cui Jun

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Meeting of Mediums Kong Yiji on Stage & Screen

By Hu Xiaoli

For Beijing's audiences, watching a drama and a film in the same play will be a completely new experience. In the drama *Kong Yiji*, which contains a total of 15 minutes of film fragments, the juxtaposition of these two art forms brings the audience a very fresh and striking visual effect. The effect goes beyond the visual, however, in that the physical experience of the theater is broken by the cold screen of the cinema. *Kong Yiji*, adapted from one of literary giant Lu Xun's best stories, is being staged at the Capital Theater from August 17 to September 9.

"There should be brand new techniques of expression to ignite the audience's desire to go to the theater again," said Gu Rong, the director of this play, and also a well-known film director in China. Many Beijingers are put off going to the theater for lack of anything new.

As this drama is adapted from his unscreened film, a lot of cinematic effects are exploited. Gu uses the same staff, costumes, make-up and even the same

rehearsal routines from the film. Gu has only taken the barest bones of Lu Xun's story about the character Kong Yiji. Kong's story recounts the harsh experience of encountering the Imperial Examination System of the Qing Dynasty.

This new marriage of the physical and the moving picture has been successful in attracting the audience's interest in the theater. "It's very interesting to see a drama and film in the same play," Jia Chenglin, a retired professor and theatergoer said after the performance. With such a warm response, Gu Rong was confident that *Kong Yiji* would please audiences at future performances.

Gu also hopes to take his drama to the stages of Broadway, the Holy Land of world theater. However, "It's not easy for this drama to step onto Broadway stages," Wang Luoyong, the main actor of this drama said objectively after the premiere. Wang, the successful Asian-born stage star in Broadway, has a very clear understanding

of Chinese dramas. According to Wang, the technique of adding film elements to drama has already been used in Broadway for 10 years, so it cannot be regarded as original in international drama circles. "Actually, theatrical techniques are very backward in Chinese dramas," he confessed. Besides, *Kong Yiji* may attract Chinese audiences because we are familiar with the background of the story, but for a drama to be staged on Broadway, *Kong Yiji* lacks a universal theme that can attract theatergoers from different culture and language backgrounds. Nevertheless, Wang also hopes one day that he will see Chinese dramas staged on Broadway, although there are still many weaknesses.

For Chinese drama makers, any new experiment in drama should be encouraged, but they should also realize that the way to Broadway is still painstakingly long.

Homegrown Films To Take on Hollywood

By Hu Xiaoli

As Hollywood tightens its grip around more and more Chinese cinematic taste buds, the country's film-makers are scrambling to divert moviegoers' attention back to films 'Made in China'.

Hero—Next Tiger?

Zhang Yimou, the best-known Chinese director, hopes to make *Hero* the greatest Kungfu movie ever conceived in China. He is also aiming at achieving the same success as the Oscar winner *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. The story relates the most striking assassination attempt in the Qin Dynasty of 221 BC. Some of the big names lined up to star in the movie have been the focus of the Chinese media.

The Heroes of Heaven and

Earth—Next Gladiator?

He Ping, who received a directing award at the Berlin International Film Festival, hopes *The Heroes of Heaven and Earth* will accompany him down the rocky road to the Oscars. Cinemagoers may find that old spirit of the hero that people have gradually been losing in this materialistic world.

Stars—Genuine Chinese Black Humor?

Be warned, here is a film containing genuine Chinese black humor. Director Feng Xiaogang, a proven box-office draw in China, wants to bring Chinese humor to world audiences. With investment from the American Columbia Film Company, and featuring an array of stars, including two American actors, *Stars* will give Chinese audiences an original, relaxing and humorous film. It will be finished soon this year.



Awaiting an Autumn Feast of Music

By Hu Xiaoli

After a year of performing, the China Philharmonic Orchestra (CPO) will begin its premiere season in September. CPO has been preparing to take this giant step forward since it was founded in May 2000.

The premiere season consists mainly of romantic works, but various other forms of music will also be heard, including not only the works of Beethoven, Weber, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Brahms, and Dvojak, but also those of Berlioz, Wagner, Mahler, and Rachmaninov.

With a wide-ranging and challenging repertoire, and 120 bril-

liant musicians, both Chinese and overseas, this season marks a first in Chinese symphonic history.

As Long Yu, artistic director of CPO, wrote in the brochure, "September is approaching. The feast is ready. Let us come together and share the special beauty and joy that only music, and genuine love for music, can bring."



Photos by Zhuang Jian

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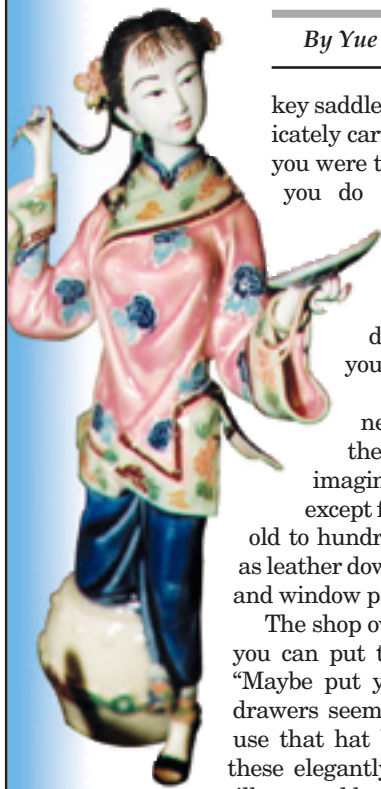
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The Older The Better

By Yue Ming



Have you ever seen a saddle for donkey? Perhaps. Have you ever seen a donkey saddle over a hundred years old, made from delicately carved wood? Now that's a different story! If you were to purchase such an artifact, what would you do with it when you got it home (assuming you don't own a donkey)? Give up? Use it as a wine rack of course! Isn't that a fantastic idea? Now that you know what to do with your wooden donkey saddle, you'll probably want to know where you can buy it.

There is a lovely shop called "Cottage" near the silk market. The goods on sale there will delight your eyes and fire your imagination. Virtually every thing in the store, except for the air-conditioner, is old; from decades old to hundreds of years old; fascinating things such as leather dowry boxes, sewing baskets, wooden pillows and window panels, exquisitely painted and carved.

The shop owner, a young woman named Xu Qi, says you can put these old items to any number of uses, "Maybe put your CDs in this medicine cabinet (the drawers seem designed exactly for this purpose), and use that hat box to store your linen. Look, I framed these elegantly embroidered pieces of old clothes and pillows, and hung them on the wall."

Xu Qi scours the country for goods to sell in her shop, picking up anything old, rare and well preserved. She speaks good English, and whether you buy something or not, she is always ready to tell you the stories behind her treasure. Her eyes sparkle with pride as she relates how one of her customers purchased 75 percent of the furnishings for his house from her shop.

Add: 6 Dongdaqiaolu (东大桥路), Chaoyang District, near the north end of Xiushui Market, across from the U.S. embassy, bus 1, 4, 57, 48, 9 or subway to Yong'anli (永安) or bus 403, 120 to Guanghualu (光华路). **Open:** 9 am to 7 pm daily. **Tel:** 65074131.

Old Gramophone

By Li Dan

What does an old gramophone mean to you? A piece of antique furniture, or a night view of old Shanghai? A faded photograph on a record sleeve or nostalgia for a past you never knew?

One rainy morning while strolling among Panjiayuan Flea Market, I came across one of these delicate instruments. Though often seen in TV period dramas, they are rarely seen in real life. This one was among the first manually controlled gramophones to be imported into China, nearly one hundred years ago. At that time, only the wealthiest families could afford such a luxury. During the 20s and 30s people enjoyed listening to the latest dance music on gramophones, perhaps while cracking melon seeds on the sofa and scanning fashion magazines imported from Europe and North America.

As I examined one of the gramophone records, the shop owner began winding up the old machine. When he put the needle down, a sound came out that I had only heard in a movie before, accompanying the pitter-pattering rain outside. "When I was very young I lay on my bed and listened to the distant mu-



sic of a gramophone from my neighbors, along with peddler's hawking voice of selling peanut kernels on the street, I felt it was so beautiful and sweet a moment for me," said the owner with a smile.

These days, people generally buy gramophones as decorations. You can find several shops selling old gramophones at Panjiayuan Flea Market, along with albums of Beijing Opera or old records produced by EMI. **Prices:** Gramophone with two loudspeakers: 1,700 yuan; Gramophone with one loudspeaker: 1,500 yuan; Gramophone with no loudspeaker: 800 yuan. Remember, bargaining is a must! **Add:** Row 3, antique hall, Panjiayuan Flea Market, Panjiayuanlu (潘家园路), south part of seat third ring road, Chaoyang District. **Open:** every day, 9am-4:30pm. No telephone, you'd better go there and have a look yourself if you are interested.

Panjiayuan
潘
Flea Market



This wine rack used to be a saddle for donkey

Photos by Chen Shuyi

Healthy Peasant Food

By Liang Hongling

Culiang restaurant, in Haidian District is a good place to experience Chinese country culture.

Stepping into the restaurant, you will be impressed by its striking environment. A huge stone-grinding mill sits in the center of the room, and peasant paintings, paper cut windows and kerosene lamps adorn the heavy gray bricks, which form the walls within the restaurant. The interior resembles a street corner of old China, creating an environment that is fun and earthy. Thick terra-cotta bowls contain unsweetened and unrefined soy milk, instead of tea, while heavy tables and chairs made of thick slabs of hardwood fill the room. Strung along the walls as decorations are ropes of dried garlic, corn, beans, and chili peppers, and big wagon wheel chandeliers are suspended from the lofty ceiling.

The owner explained that although the cuisine is "peasant food", the cooks prepare the rough and unrefined grains in a modern way. And the bulk of peasant diets are composed of vegetables and grains, Culiang is great for those looking for a good vegetarian meal. There are many dishes featuring whole grains, beans, mushrooms, doufu and a huge assortment of vegetables.

Add: 40 Huayuanlu (花园路), bus 331, 810, to Beiyisanyuan (北医三院), Haidian District. **Open:** 8:30am-10pm. **Tel:** 62365959.



Photo by Chen Shuyi

By Wang Dandan

Have you ever missed the authentic pizza of Italian taste? Or are you happy with pizza cooked Chinese style? It is certain that you like Chinese food, however, homesickness sometimes drags you back to look for something similar to real western food.

Tube Station, a small restaurant operated by a local Chinese, might be able to serve a suitable pizza. Several years ago Yuan Jie, the owner of the store, met an Englishman who has a long family history of cooking pizza. The easterner and the westerner traversed the ocean and became good friends. The Englishman left Yuan a book detailed in cooking pizza and went back to Britain.

Five varieties of pizza plus twelve kinds of sandwich are the specialties of the store. With all the substitutions and basic ingredients carefully selected, not only your stomach but also your eyes can enjoy a wonderful dinner.

When asked if they catered to parties, the Tsinghua graduate owner smiled and said his aim was to serve the best pizzas and sandwiches, for the parties, let the bars do the job.

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Six reasons for the increasing prices

By Wang Dandan

A recent meeting of officials from the China Construction Bureau cited six reasons for the rising real estate prices, as follows:

The increasing number of individual purchasers;
Underestimating of the purchasing market and consequent shortage in the newly-completed housing projects;

Insufficient construction of low-cost apartments;

Restricting the supply of land for development to create an artificial increase in land prices;

Rising incomes, enabling citizens to demand more in terms of quality, surroundings and facilities;

Attempts by some developers to mislead consumers in relation to WTO, Olympics and such concepts.



Are taxes included in the apartment selling price

By Wang Dandan

Dear editor, would you answer me several questions. I am buying a two-room apartment priced at 460,000 yuan. Does this price cover all the taxes, or do I have to pay by myself? If I have to pay tax on top of this, how much is it? I think 460,000 yuan should include all the fees, but the developer says they are not included. Why not unify the price and let the purchasers know exactly what and how much they should pay?

As a purchaser, you have to pay the following fees:

First, you have to pay tax: if the apartment is 120 sqm or less, you have to pay 2% of the selling price, take 460,000 yuan as an example, that is $460,000 \times 2\% = 9200$ yuan. If the apartment is over 120 sqm, you have to pay 4% of the total price, $460,000 \times 4\% = 18,400$ yuan.

Then comes the commission for apartment exchanges: if the apartment is 120 sqm or less, the commission is 500 yuan, for over 120 sqm, you should pay 1,500 yuan.

Stamp duty: 0.05% of the total price; $460,000 \times 0.05\% = 230$ yuan.

Public maintenance fund: 2% of the total price, $460,000 \times 2\% = 9,600$ yuan.

Registration fee for property rights: 0.3 yuan for each square meter.

Stamp duty on the certification of property rights: 5 yuan for each set.

Renting in the west west Fourth Ring Road

By Wang Dandan

Today, we look at apartment prices around the west Fourth Ring Road, from Kunminghu west station in the north to Fengtai station in the south.

Prices around Yuandaqiao range from about 900 yuan for a simply-decorated, fully furnished one-room apartment to 1,200 yuan for two room and 1,500 yuan for three room. More elaborately decorated apartments might cost between 1,100 and, 200 yuan for one room, and up to 1,500 yuan for two room. As there is a Chengdi Department Store nearby, the price is a little higher.

Sijiqingqiao

One room 800; two room 1,200; three room 1,500

In this area, the prices are a little lower than the northern side. A simply decorated, fully furnished one room apartment costs around 800 yuan, two room, 1,200 yuan and three room 1,500 to 1,600 yuan. Better quality apartments cost 1,200 yuan (one room) and 1,600 yuan (two rooms).

Dinghuiqiao to Jingouheqiao

One room 1,000; two room 1,400; three room 1,700

This area has the highest prices in the west Fourth Ring Road. The average price for one room with simple decoration and full facilities is 1,000 yuan, two room 1,400 yuan and three room 1,700 yuan. It is a very convenient area for living, close to shopping, entertainment facilities, medical centers etc.

Wukesongqiao

One room 1,000; two room 1,300; three room 1,600

This area enjoys very convenient in terms of transportation; subway, buses etc. A one room apartment costs around 1,000 yuan, two room 1,300 yuan and three room 1,600 yuan. You can easily reach anywhere from this place; however, as it is the knot of the transportation and the rate of flowing population is higher than other areas, you have to pay more attention to your security.

Yuegezhuangqiao

One room 1,000; two room 1,300; three room 1,500

As it is near the Jingshi Expressway, prices are a little higher. The average price for one room with simple decoration and full facilities is 1,000 yuan, two room 1,300 yuan and three room 1,700 yuan. There are many facilities and you do not have to walk far to do shopping.

Guest Quiz
Target: Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing
When: 17:30-19:30, Friday, August 17th
Hotel Detective: Wang Dandan

By Wang Dandan

Kole Gjeshaj, Belgium

It is the third time for me to come to China, and this hotel. The staff here are beginning to recognize me.

The room is nice, even for someone as tall as me. I usually like to work in my room. I can keep my documents there. I just sit on the sofa with a portable PC.

Paul Biliad, Brazil

There are a lot of people in the main dinning room. I think it is because of the opening of the Universiade. The dining room staff are fast, if we need something, they will bring it to us, but they do not impose

themselves. And I know that any special demands will be satisfied.

Amy Thelma, Croatia

I am attending a meeting in Beijing and we are to work for the meeting day and night. The hotel offers good meals to individual offices, and not only at the regular hours. I can have my breakfast at noon, and lunch at evening time.

Charley Hamilton, Italy

Each time I go to the pool here to relax a bit and forget my stress. And I do not have to talk with other people, just indulge in the water. It's fun to have swimming pool in the same place with your office. Sometimes (I'm) in the swimming pool and sometimes in the office!

Hao Yuan Guest House

a "siheyuan" hotel

Beijing Hotel
By Wang Dandan

Hao Yuan Guest House is the former residence of Li Lianying, a famous eunuch of the Qing Dynasty.

Later, Zhang Zizhong, a Kuomintang general lived there. However, the most famous resident is Hua Guofeng, former premier of the People's Republic of China, and successor to Chairman Mao Zedong.

Hao Yuan is located in a "siheyuan", or traditional Beijing courtyard house, tucked in a quiet alley in the center of Beijing, just ten minutes walk from the Forbidden City and Wangfujing shopping district.

The house is composed of a forecourt and backcourt. The forecourt is very spacious with guest parking available, while the backcourt is a fantastic place to relax under fruit trees.

During the 1980s, the house was renovated and turned into a hotel, which is managed by the All-China Women's Federation.

The hotel has single and double rooms, as well as suites all fitted with classical Chinese furniture. There is also an elegant restaurant serving traditional Sichuan, Huaiyang and Cantonese cuisine.

Add: 53 Shijia Hutong, Dengshikou, Beijing

Tel: 65125557

Price: standard room 400 yuan.

Beijing

Office

By Wang Dandan

Beijing Telecom (BT) has signed a contract with Legend Raycom to provide various services at that company's Raycom Infotech park tower A in Zhongguancun (China's silicon valley).

BT says it will construct the area as a "model information park", and as business increases, upgrade it to a "telecom center", to drive the communication services in the vicinity.

According to BT, a direct connection to its main network will provide a "bottleneck-free information highway".

Raycom Infotech park tower A is designed to attract top standard IT and communi-

cation companies and will be completed by the end of this year.

"End to end" services from China Telecom will also be immediately available in the building. The second floor of the tower is designed as an information management platform, which will offer an immediate bandwidth of 622 megabytes and a capacity of 2.5 gigabytes, as well as a selection of telecommunication service providers and comprehensive connection methods.

Office space is designed to be as flexible, offering a variety of layout options, while each wing contains independent transportation facilities, aimed at assuring independence of office space and improved efficiency.

Hotel special offers

By Wang Dandan

CTS Plaza

As a special service to travelers who have just arrived in town after a long journey, or are 'in transit', CTS Plaza offers part-day room rentals. Guests can relax and avail themselves of the hotel amenities prior to a business meeting or continuing their journey.

The service is available from 6:00am to 8:00pm for a maximum of 6 hours. Stays longer than 6 hours will attract the full day rate.

Standard room
1st hour 150.00 yuan
2nd hour 100.00 yuan
3rd hour 50.00 yuan
4th hour 50.00 yuan
5th hour 50.00 yuan
6th hour 50.00 yuan
Tel: 64622288 / Fax: 64612412
http://www.ctsplaza.com

Kempinski Hotel Beijing Long Stay Package

Specially tailored for guests requiring longer term accom-

modation, the package offers everything business executives need for a comfortable and enjoyable stay in Beijing.

Daily breakfast in Seasons Cafe or Room Service

Complimentary airport arrival transfer

20% discount on all meals at Seasons Cafe (excluding alcoholic beverages)

20% discount on all meals at Paulaner Brauhaus (excluding alcoholic beverages)

30% discount on all laundry charges

Free local calls

Complimentary use of "Pulse Health Club" (excluding Massage, Tennis, Squash Courts and Solarium)

Fruit Basket upon arrival
Complimentary bottle of mineral water

Complimentary choice of daily local newspaper

One complimentary beer voucher for Salsa Cabana
One complimentary beer voucher for Paulaner Brauhaus

Tel: 64663388

"HOUSING" welcomes your feedback: What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with?

Our E-mail: jianrong@ynet.com Tel: 65902522 Fax: 65902525

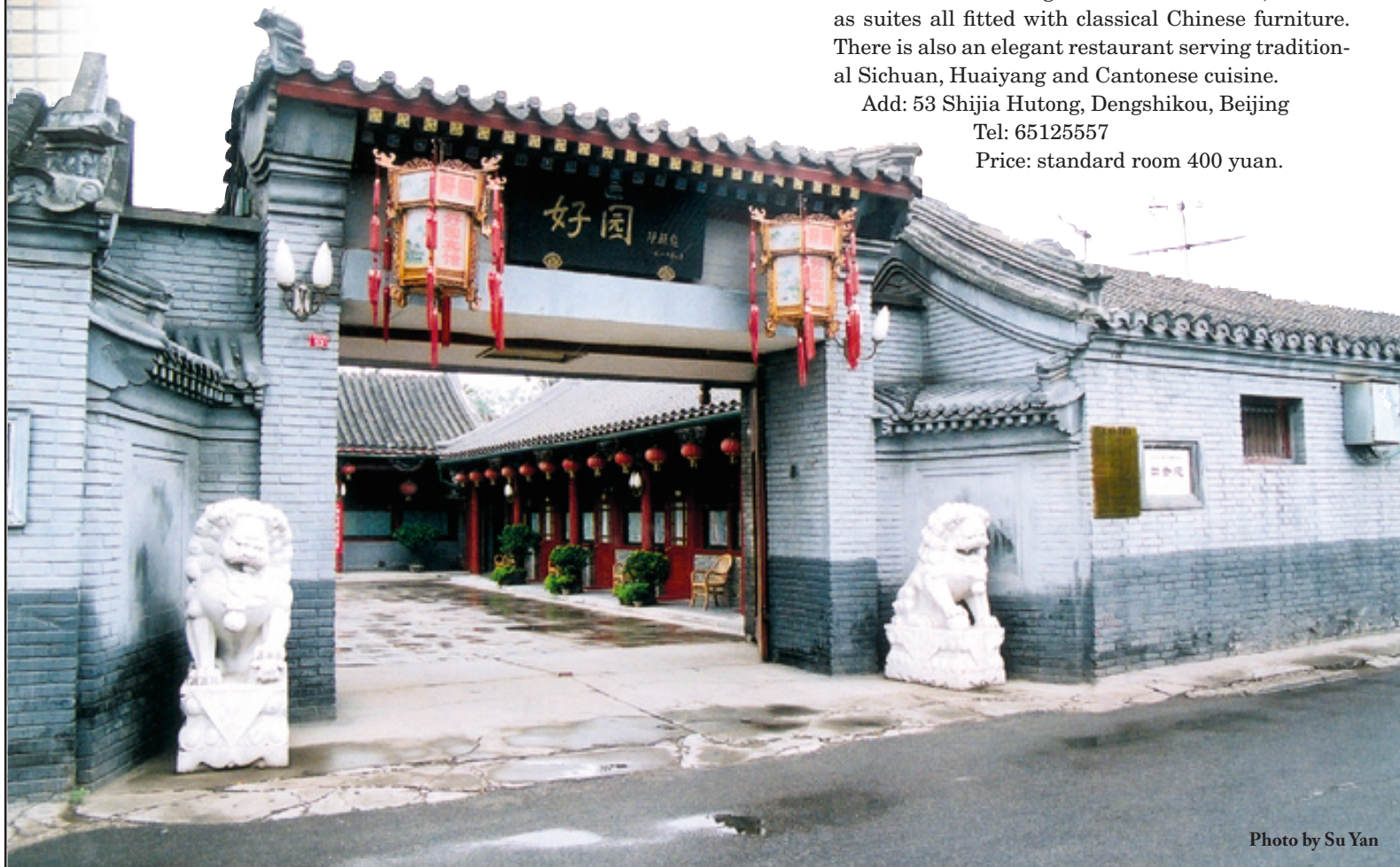


Photo by Su Yan

Exhibitions

Exhibition of Silk Screen Prints By Zhang Guilin.

A new style of silk screen etching.

Where: Creation Gallery, North exit of Ritan Donglu, Chaoyang District.

Open: August 25-31, 10am-7pm.

Opening reception: August 25, 3pm-6pm. **Free.**

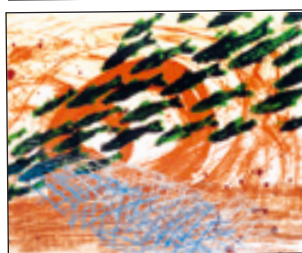
Tel: 65067570.



Lacquer Paintings from Vietnam **Where:** 9 Huizhongli, Asian Games Village, Yanhuang Arts Museum, bus 328, 108, 317 to Yayuncun.

Time: Aug 31-Sep 16.

Tel: 64912902.



Sports & Activities

Young Professional's Happy Hour!

Beer, Margeritas, Tequila and Tacos.

Where: Cabo cafe & bar, near Scitech, Jianguomen-waidajie, facing Scitech Tower, you'll see a taxi roundabout in front of you. On your right, there is a little lane, go along that for 50m, you'll see Cabo on the right.

When: Wednesday, August 29, from 6:30pm.

Chinese & Foreign University Students Party

Students from 12 universities will present their well-prepared programs.

Where: Chinese Minority Garden, west of Aotizhongxin (Olympic Sports Center), Yayuncun (Asian Games Village). Bus 380, 407.

When: August 25.

Tel: 62063646.

Chaoyang Park Bungee Jumping

Where: Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang District, bus 302,847 to Chaoyang Gongyuan Nanmen.

Time: Aug, 10am-4pm.

Tel: 65953815.

Le Cool Ice Skating China World

Where: B2 China World

Trade Center, Chaoyang District, bus 9, 28, 113, 300 or subway to Guomao.

Time: 10am-10pm, Saturday: 10am-midnight.

Ticket: 30-50 for 90 mins.

Beijing International Golf Club

Where: 8 Beichen Donglu, Chaoyang District.

Time: 9am-8:30pm.

Tel: 64910386.

Charge: 30-50 yuan / 50balls, 2580-8000 / year for gold cards, monthly cards and half-year cards are also available.

Aquascape Scuba Diving Club

Where: Swimming Pool, Friendship Hotel.

Time: 9am-9pm.

Admission: Dive in 4-meter swimming pool for 160 yuan, or at Fuguo Zoo at Workers' Stadium for 380 yuan. A training course is 420 yuan / person.

Tel: 68498613.

Beihang Campus Cultural Activities

Performed by Beihang Art Troupe and the art group of Beijing Dance Institute.

Where: Beihang, Xueyuanlu, Haidian District.

When: August 23, 7pm.

Movies

American Movie: The Last Temptation of Christ

Director: Martin Scorsese, 1988, 163 minutes.

Where: Sculpting In Time, 45 Chengfujie, Haidian District.

When: August 28, 30, 7:30pm.

Admission: free with one drink purchase.

Tel: 62521746.

**French Movie by Eric Rohmer**

A Good Marriage (1982), 97m. Pauline at the Beach (1983), 94m.

When: August 25, 2pm. Full Moon in Paris (1984), 100 minutes. Summer (1986), 98 minutes.

When: August 25, 7:30pm. Boyfriends and Girlfriends (1987), 103m. A Summer's Tale (1996).

When: August 26, 2pm.

Where: Box Cafe, 5 Xiwang-zhuang Xiaogu, opposite Tsinghua Tongfang Masion, Haidian District.

Admission: 5 yuan.

Tel: 62791280.

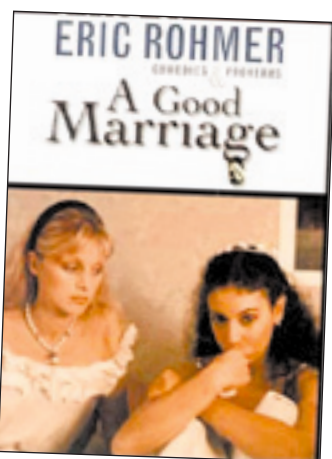
**Taiwan Movies**

This weekend there will be several Taiwan movies at On Off Bar. **Saturday:** Majong. **Sunday:** Juvenile Murder in Guling Street. Book in advaced, VCD exchange available.

Where: On Off Bar, Lianbao Apratment, Xingfucunzhonglu, Chaoyang District, bus 109 to Xingfucun.

Time: Aug 25-26, 2pm.

Tel: 6415-8083.



Music

ILGI Band Concert

From Latvia, Northern Europe, Ilgi were founded in 1981, and won the country's National Music Prize two years running. Their music combines traditional music with light rock' n roll.

Where: Tianqiao Theater, 30 Beiwelu, Xuanwu District.

When: August 30, 7:30pm.

Admission: 60-380 yuan.

Tel: 63030300.

Imperial Garden Series - Violin Recital by Lara St. John

The program includes Beethoven's Sonata for Violin and Piano in C Minor Op. 30, No. 21

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park.

When: Sunday, August 26, 7:30pm.

Admission: 50-180 yuan, 600 yuan box.

Tel: 65598285.

**Ballet Classics By Beijing Symphony Orchestra.**

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park.

When: Wednesday, August 29, 7:30pm.

Admission: 10-60 yuan, 200 yuan box.

Tel: 65598285.

Drum Crazy Night

Drummer Mike Portnoy from the U.S.A. will showcase his great drumming skills. He is a member of the band 'Dream Theater' and was named by England's Rhythm magazine, as one of "the top 50 drummers in the new Millennium."

Where: CD Cafe, south of Agriculture Exhibition Center, Dongsanhuanlu, Chaoyang District.

When: August 29.

Tel: 65018877 ext. 3032.

**Stairway to Music 2001--Music Camp**

Youlan Traditional Music Trio. By Youlan Ensemble Band.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park.

When: August 25, 2pm.

Admission: 10-60 yuan, 200 yuan box.

Tel: 65598285.

Grassland Folk Song Chorus Concert

The songs include Song of Praise, Vast Grassland, Mongolia, Love in Grassland and The Beautiful Grassland is My Home.

Where: National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian District.

When: Saturday, August 25, 7:45pm.

Admission: 10-60 yuan.

Tel: 68485462.

Rock' n Roll at Get Lucky-Tongue Band Special Performance

When: August 24. Magnesium Records Music Festival Bands including Burn, Multiple Elements and Raven.

When: August 25. Engine Power band, Replacement.

When: August 30. Kaiser of the Tang Dynasty & his Spring and Autumn Band.

Where: Get Lucky Bar, Taiyang Gong, east of south gate of Jingmao Daxue, near Taiyang District.

Admission: 20, 30 yuan.

Tel: 64299109.

Chinese Minorities Classic Songs Concert

Performed by Central Minority Song & Dance Troupe.

Where: National Cultural Palace Theater, 49 Fuxingmennei Dajie, Xicheng District.

When: August 24, 7:30pm.

Admission: 50-280 yuan, 380 VIP.

Tel: 66059881, 66022770.

Restaurants & Bars

Japanese Restaurant Qian He

Famous for its pancakes, such as pork & noodle pancake, Chinese seafood pancake. The menu is in Chinese, Japanese and English. Average price 10-30 yuan. No air-conditioning.

Add: 61 Chengfujie, Haidian District.

Open: 11am-11pm.

Tel: 62755523.

New Sculpting In Time

Now there are two Sculpting In Times, however the original one is due to be pulled down around the middle of Sep.

Add: 7 Weigongcunlu, at the south gate of Ligong Daxue, Haidian District.

Tel: 68946825.

Performances

Shaoxing Opera (Yueju): Chen Xiang Shan (Fragrant Fan)

Traditional love story in Chinese, a classic play. Established in 1969, Ningbo Xiaobaihua Shaoxing Opera Group is one of China's top Shaoxing Opera companies.

Where: National Cultural Palace Theater, 49 Fuxingmennei Dajie, Xicheng District.

When: September 1, 7:30pm.

Admission: 60-280 yuan.

Tel: 66022530.

Beijing Opera at Huguang Guild Hall

The programs include Ba Wang Bie Ji, Dang Ma, Jin Chi Da Peng.

Where: Huguang Huiguan, 3 Hufangqiaolu, walk south from Hepingmen, Xuanwu District.

When: August 24-31, 7:30pm.

Admission: 100-180 yuan, 200, 380 yuan box.

Tel: 63529134.

Puppet Show at China Puppet Theater

The popular play Magic Pen Ma Liang will be shown on August 25, 26 by the China Puppet Art Troupe.

Where: China Puppet Theater, 1A Anhuixili, Beisanhuanlu, west of Anzhenqiao.

When: August 25, 26, 10:30am.

Admission: 20, 25 yuan.

Tel: 64254798, 64247085.

**Comprehensive Performance**

Acrobatics show, Beijing Opera and puppet show are included. Performed by Beijing Acrobatics Troupe, Beijing Opera Theater and China Puppet Art Troupe.

Where: China Puppet Theater, 1A Anhuixili, Beisanhuanlu, west of Anzhenqiao.

When: now-August 31, 7:15pm.

Admission: 100 yuan.

Tel: 64254798.

Antiques

Guang Han Tang

Courtyard house mixing ancient and modern styles. Ming & Qing dynasty artifacts on sale.

Add: Nangao Lu, Dashanzi Donggu, Airport Fulu, Chaoyang District.

Open: 9am-6pm.

Tel: 84567945.

Jingucang

Add: 1 Sanlitun North Street, Xingfu Sancun, Chaoyang District.

Open: 10am-midnight.

Tel: 64637389.

Another: **Add:** 1F, 6 Sanlitun Nanlu, south of Swallow Tail Butterfly Bar, Chaoyang District.

Tel: 65025142.

My Antiques China

Most furniture dates back about 100 years.

Add: Shibalidian Qiao, first exit off the Beijing - Tianjin Expressway.

Open: 2:30pm-6:30pm.

Tel: 87692667.

Nei Fu Antiques & Architecture Art Center

Add: 3F, Full Link Plaza, 18 Chaoyangmenwai, Chaoyang District.

Open: 10am-8pm.

Tel: 65881483.

Where to visit ancient furniture.

And if you are interested in replica antique furniture, you should visit Red Sandalwood Museum. Covering a floor space of 9,000 m2, there is a big variety of imitation old furniture on display here.

Open: 9am-5pm.

Admission: usually 60 yuan, but at present, just 20 yuan.

Add: 9 Xinglong Xijie, Chaoyang District.

Tel: 85752818.

Weather

Friday

August 24

Overcast to cloudy,
Max: 30C. Min: 19C.



Saturday

August 25

Overcast
Max: 25C. Min: 20C.



Sunday

August 26

Overcast
Max: 26C. Min: 21C.



Monday

August 27

Clear to cloudy
Max: 30C. Min: 18C.



Tuesday

August 28

Clear to cloudy
Max: 28C. Min: 22C.



Wednesday

August 29

Clear to cloudy
Max: 29C. Min: 20C.



Thursday

August 30

Cloudy to overcast
Max: 27C. Min: 22C.



We are glad to receive your feedback. If you need any help in your life, you can email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 65902522

By Jiao Pei / Li Dan

Travel In Beijing On Water

By Jiao Pei

These hot summer days are ideal for a little river travel. Beijing's river system, which extends from the Summer Palace to Gaobeidian (the starting point of the Grand Canal), is known as Beijing's Green

Necklace. Traveling on water through Beijing, you can appreciate much of the city's famous scenery, from a different angle of view. Travel on the capital's waterways dates back to the Yuan Dynasty, over 700 years ago.

However at that time, it was just for the Imperial family. Since 1998, the river has been dredged and the river banks cleaned up and reconstructed. The total length is about 46 km, and can be divided into three sections. The 'Kunyu' section extends almost 10 km from Yuyuantan Park (north of the Military Museum) to the Summer Palace. A boat trip takes one and a half hours, and passes the Central TV Tower, Binjiaoyuan, Enji Garden, Ling Long Tower, and Changhe River. The Changhe River section, 9 km long, runs from Beizhanhouhu (the Back Lake) to the Summer Palace, passing Wuta (Five-Pagoda) Temple, and Gaoliangqiao Bridge. Travelers can also spot the Beijing Exhibition Center, Beijing Aquarium Museum, the National Library, Zizhuyuan (Purple Bamboo) Park, and Wanshou (Longevity) Temple. When leaving the Imperial Palace for the summer resort in Beijing's northwest, the imperial family always took this waterway. The most famous scenery along the Changhe River is the willow scenic spot, which has a history of over one hundred years, and the wharf where Empress Dowager Cixi changed ships. There is also a lock that is a replica of that at Gezhouba Dam on the Yangtze River. The third section, called Nanhu, is 36 km long and extends from Yuyuantan Park to Gaobeidian. Baiyunguan (White Cloud Temple), Tianning Temple, Daguan yuan (Grand View) Park,

the Temple of Heaven and Longtan Lake can be seen along this part. However at present, the part from Daguan yuan to Gaobeidian is not open to individuals. You pass through 3 locks in this part, which although only about 9km long, takes 90 minutes to traverse.

Tips: There are regular boats, dragon boats and a few gaily-painted pleasure-boats, which can hold 30 people each. Groups should book in advance. There are no English tour guides on the boats, so for those who don't speak Chinese, a translator will be useful for identifying landmarks. If you want to appreciate the night scenery of Beijing, you should take a trip from Bayi Lake to Daguan yuan. You can also visit the Summer Palace and Millennium Monument if you buy an all inclusive ticket. All 3 routes take about 90 minutes (one-way).

Kunyu River starting spots & scheduled sailing time: Millennium Monument Wharf (north of the Millennium Monument, by the south gate of Yuyuantan Park):

When: from 8am, every hour till 4pm. Night trips at 7pm and 8pm.

How to get there: Take bus 1, 4, 308, 65, 414 or subway to Junbo

Tickets: 40 yuan per person one-way, 70 yuan round-trip ticket. 50 yuan for one-way ticket including admission to Millennium Monument, 60 yuan for one-way ticket including admission to Summer Palace

Tel: 68529428.

Changhe River starting spot & scheduled sailing time:

Beizhanhouhu wharf:

Tickets: 40 yuan for one-way ticket; 70 yuan for round-trip.

Tel: 88363577.

Nanhu Lake starting spot & scheduled sailing time: Millennium Monument wharf: 10am and 2pm, night sailing only for group bookings.

Tickets: 50 yuan for one-way trip, 80 yuan for round-trip.

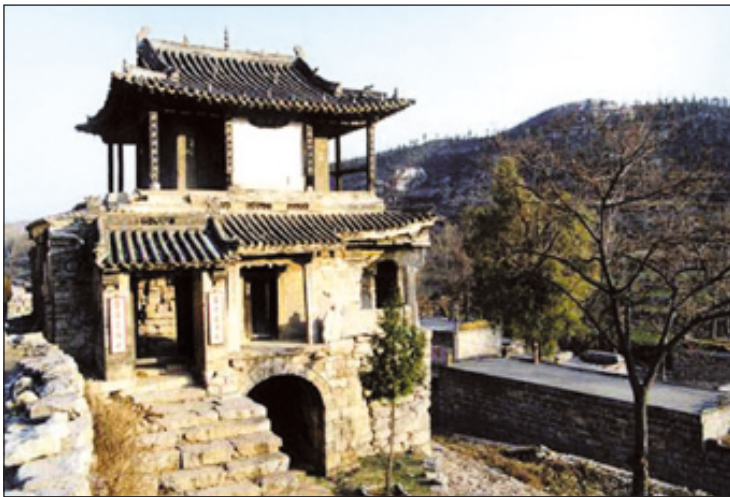
Tel: 68510068

If you have any bright ideas for great days out around Beijing, we'd love to hear from you. Please send any ideas, photos, itineraries to us.

Contact: Jiang Zhong

Tel: 6590 2520

E-mail: bjtodayplan@ynet.com



Qingliangge (Cool Pavilion)

Stone Village

By Jiang Zhong

One of my friends has told me from time to time about a stunning stone village hidden in the Taihang Mountains, in Hebei Province. Eventually, my curiosity about the village got the better of me, and on a recent weekend, I set off to investigate the place for myself.

The mountains surrounding the village have to an extent isolated the local people from modern civilization, helping the village keep its unique nature. People of the village lead a similar life style to that of their ancestors and many see no necessity to change it to follow the trends of the outside world.

This is truly a world of stone, just as my friend described. The paths winding through the village are covered with pebbles. I don't think it would be a good idea to bicycle or drive a car along these rugged paths; the tires would soon be shredded, and the suspension destroyed. This can well illustrate the villagers' resistance to modernization. The stone blocks used in the construction of the houses are carefully cut and trimmed, contributing to the neat appearance of the village. As I walked further, I found more and more attractions. There are many stone mills, rollers and tablets here and there. Most have been out of service for many years, but a few are still in use. Occasionally, a villager, generally a woman, visits one of the mills, carrying a big bag of corn on her shoulder and a whiskbroom in one hand. The broom is a very important tool for the job of milling corn. It is used to prevent the corn from running out of the groove of the mill. Some of the women seemed almost bent double by their heavy burdens, but they seemed to be used to

it. The siheyuan, or courtyard house like residences of the village gave me the impression that I was walking in a hutong of Beijing. However, the adornments suggested a simpler lifestyle. Besides the old residences, there are also some old temples and public buildings in the village. The most outstanding of these is the old tower named Qingliangge. This building is in the style of Beijing's Bell and Drum Tower. The pedestal is made of huge stone blocks, some weigh more than 5 tones each. On the pedestal stands a two-storied traditional style building. The tower was built in the ninth year of the Ming Dynasty (1582). Unusually for a building of this type and size, there are no underground foundations to stabilize the structure. Standing on the

pedestal, I had a good overall view of the village.

The villagers occasionally passing by all waved a warm greeting to me, in contrast with the coldness of the stones. I spent the night in the home of one of the villagers. The yard was clean and neat, brightened up by some beautiful flowers, which appeared particularly vivid against the surroundings of gray stone. There were no modern electrical appliances in the room, which came as no surprise. My visit engaged all the members of the family

in preparation of a hearty meal, and in no time a feast of delicious local foods was spread on the table before me. I ate heartily, and then retired for a sound sleep on a kang (a bed made of clay, usually found in countryside of North China).

How to get there:

By car: Take the Jingshi Expressway and change to Shitai Road, keep going until you get to Jingxing.

By train: Take the train K217 at 6:30pm from Beijing West Railway Station, you will arrive in Shijiazhuang at 9pm

(the ticket costs 40 yuan). Stay at the Hebei Hotel opposite the train station, a room for four costs 100 yuan a night. Take train 817 heading for Taiyuan at 6:30am the next morning, and get off at Jingxing (the ticket costs 3 yuan). A taxi to the stone village will cost about 25 yuan.

Accommodation: You can stay with a local family for the night. A one- night stay will cost 10-15 yuan per person, and one meal will cost 5-10 yuan per person.

Note: You must purchase a ticket to enter the village. The ticket office is at the entrance to the village. Tickets cost 16 yuan per person. A tour guide will show you around the village if needed. You should agree on a price before you start the tour.



Rugged Path of Stone Village



Photos by Su Yan

